



Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing National Dance

IMPERIAL SOCIETY OF TEACHERS OF DANCING

National Dance Faculty

SYLLABUS OUTLINE OF NATIONAL DANCE QUALIFICATIONS

Please Note: this syllabus outline has been amended in line with the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policies of the ISTD. Syllabus technique books may still include out of date terminology until their next reprint.

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CONTENTS

Folk Dance Studies	3
<i>Withdrawn with final examination on 30 September 2027.</i>	
<i>Please see www.istd.org for more information</i>	
Entry Conditions and General Information	3
Examination Requirements and Procedure	4
Primary Class Examination	5
Entry Conditions and General Information	5
Syllabus content	6
Assessment	7
Graded Examinations in Dance	8
Entry Conditions and General Information	8
Syllabus content	9
Grade 1-Grade 6	9-12
Assessment	12-14
Medal Tests	15
Entry Conditions and General Information	15
Junior Division	16
Senior Division	16
Assessment	17-20
Vocational Graded Examinations in Dance	21
Entry Conditions and General Information	22
Intermediate Foundation	23
<i>Withdrawn with final examination on 30 September 2027.</i>	
<i>Please see www.istd.org for more information</i>	
Intermediate	24
Advanced 1	25
Advanced 2	26
Assessment	27
Reasonable Adjustments	29
Results and Certification	29
Re-takes	30
OFQUAL Qualification Accreditation Numbers	30

ISTD NATIONAL DANCE EXAMINATIONS

FOLK DANCE STUDIES

Withdrawn with final examination on 30 September 2027. Please see www.istd.org for more information.

AIMS and PURPOSE

- To impart practical skills in Folk Dance as it exists today in traditional format complemented by appropriate background knowledge and understanding.
- To develop an awareness and appreciation of traditional folk dance within the context of a wider dance world.
- To provide a starting point for inspiring further study into traditional folk dance.
- To enable the participant to enjoy a communal form of dance, regardless of age, gender, or ethnic background.

OBJECTIVES

- Ability to perform traditional folk dances with confidence.
- Ability to show an understanding of the background of folk dance from various countries.

ENTRY CONDITIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

The Folk Dance Studies may be taken at Schools, Folk Dance Clubs or Organisations, Dance Studios, Adult Classes or any similar group.

A teacher should not be present in the examination room.

Each candidate should wear a number on the front and back.

AGE LIMITS

The minimum age for entry is 5 years, and no maximum.

This is to ensure that the candidates are physically developed sufficiently to safely meet the demands of the syllabus.

TIME ALLOWANCES

Candidates should be entered in groups of 6 or 8.

The time allowed for one unit is 20 minutes

MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT

The musical accompaniment may be either live or pre-recorded, but recorded music should not be operated by the teacher, a relative of a candidate, or any other candidate in the session.

RECOMMENDED DRESS REQUIREMENTS

Either:

Leotard and skirt which may be circular or gathered; tights with hard or soft shoes as appropriate. Hair should be neat and worn off the face.

Or:

Short or long trousers, shirt or t-shirt, hard or soft shoes as appropriate.

EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURE

In the first Unit each candidate receives their own personal booklet in which to record the countries danced and the projects made.

The first booklet covers twelve Units from Bronze to Gold Awards. When the twelve Units have been completed candidates may enter the Gold Star Levels, of which there are three. For these there is a second booklet containing eighteen Units covering Level 1 to Level 3. The relevant booklet should be handed to the assessor on the day of the examination.

After each Unit the dancer receives a certificate which should then be placed in the booklet on the special page provided. On completing the required number of Units each candidate will receive the relevant Award. There are three Units to complete Bronze, four units for Silver, five units for Gold and six units for each of the Gold Star Levels.

The teacher decides which country is to be presented and chooses the dances suitable for the ability of the candidates. There is no set syllabus. If desired, dances may be taken from any part of the Graded and Vocational Graded syllabus; or traditional dances from any other source can be used.

Each Unit represents one European country. However, if desired, one non- European country may be presented at each level.

The countries chosen for each Unit must be different. A country studied in Bronze should not be repeated for Silver, Gold or Gold Star.

The length of the test is 20 minutes. The total dancing time should be between 8 and 10 minutes. The number of dances chosen to form a Unit can vary depending on the length of each dance.

EXAMPLE OF A UNIT

COUNTRY: England

Dances studied:

- Pat-a-Cake Polka
 - Virginia Reel
 - Circassian Circle
- (Approximately 10 minutes dancing time)

Project:

A project based on some aspect of England.

- Each dancer is required to present a project to the Assessor. The projects can be wide ranging in choice. These can include collages, pieces of embroidery, illustrated maps, drawings, cookery or folk artefacts such as painted eggs, dressed dolls, corn dollies etc.
- A candidate interested in music can play a folk melody on the piano or on a traditional instrument. A folk song can be sung individually or as a group. The projects can also be a group display created by the candidates and based on the particular country.

PRIMARY CLASS EXAMINATION

RATIONALE

The syllabus is designed to provide an introduction to the basic steps and patterns of National Dance and is not related to any specific country . It is suitable for young children in dance schools, primary schools and folk dance clubs.

AIMS

- To provide an awareness of the basic technique of National Dance
- To provide an introduction to the concept of dancing with a partner and in small groups
- To provide an introduction to basic rhythms

OBJECTIVES

The study of this syllabus provides students with:

- A sense of performance and expression
- Co-ordinated movements
- An awareness of timing and rhythm
- An awareness of space and other members of the group

ENTRY CONDITIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

AGE LIMITS

The recommended minimum age is 5 years. This is to ensure that candidates are physically developed sufficiently to meet the demands of the syllabus. There is no maximum age limit.

PRIOR LEARNING

No prior learning is required.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

All the work may be danced equally by all candidates.

TIME ALLOWANCES

Candidates should be entered in groups of 2 to 4.

The time allowed is 25 minutes.

MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT

The official recorded music should be used. The audio player should not be operated by either the candidates' teacher or any other teacher, a relative of the candidates, or a candidate in the session who has not yet been examined.

N.B. Teachers are allowed to change the speed to suit candidates if they have a variable speed facility.

DRESS REQUIREMENTS

Either:

Leotard and skirt which may be circular or gathered, tights with hard or soft shoes as appropriate. Hair should be neat and worn off the face.

Or:

Short or long trousers, shirt or t-shirt, hard or soft shoes as appropriate.

SYLLABUS CONTENT

PRIMARY CLASS EXAMINATION

1. ENTRANCE- 'Farmers Jig'
 2. WARM UP A- 'Find a Partner'
 3. WARM UP B – 'Nuts and May' (practice purposes only)
 4. WARM UP B – 'Nuts and May' (Exam track)
 5. Step Sequences - Teachers choice of two of the following :
 - A. Skips – 'Brighton Camp'
 - B. Walking in Couples – 'Muffin Man'
 - C. Sideways Gallops – 'Pop goes the Weasel'
 - D. Skip Change of Step – 'I want to be near you'
 6. ARMING - 'Nick Nack Paddy Whack'
 7. RHYTHM
 - A. 'Jumping Joan'
 - B. 1. 'Galopede' (practice purposes only)
2. 'Galopede' – Teacher's own arrangement.(Exam track)
 - 8 'LONDON BRIDGE'
- TEACHERS CHOICE OF 9 OR 10
9. Bow Shape – 'Norfolk Long Dance'
 10. Progress On – 'Dorset Ring Dance'
 11. Dance Sequence – ' Treasure Hunt ' Teachers choice of theme - Danced all together or in couples with use of appropriate mime according to theme chosen
 - Apple picking
 - Picking flowers
 - Finding acorns
 - Easter Eggs
 - Sea Shells
 12. Curtsey or Bow
 13. Exit – 'Farmer's Jig '

ASSESSMENT

MARK SCHEME PRIMARY CLASS EXAMINATION

Title of component	Available marks
Technique, Presentation and Musicality	
Poise & Stance	10
Co-ordination	10
Quality of Movement	10
Co-operation	10
Spatial Awareness	10
Sense of Performance	10
Enjoyment	10
Timing	10
Musical Awareness	10
Dance	10
Section total	100
Overall total	100

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

The Primary Class Examination is assessed externally by a visiting examiner recruited and trained by the ISTD. The titles of the components and the marks attainable are detailed above.

Candidates must gain at least 25% of the marks attainable in each Section in order to pass the examination overall. In cases where 25% of the marks attainable does not come to a round figure, eg 12½, the pass mark for the Sections is lowered to the nearest round figure, in this example, 12.

The Section totals are aggregated and the overall mark is given out of 100. If all Sections are passed, then the overall result is indicated as follows:

Grade	Marks
Distinction	80-100 marks
Merit	60-79 marks
Pass	40-59 marks
Not Attained	00-39 marks

ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE

Candidates are assessed on their ability to show:

- A sense of enjoyment.
- Spatial awareness in relation to other members of the group.
- Rhythmic awareness.
- An understanding of correct stance.

GRADED EXAMINATIONS IN DANCE

RATIONALE

National Dance makes a distinctive contribution to the education of all students, through using movement, which is one of the fundamental modes of human expression. It offers a range of learning opportunities and enables participants to enjoy physical expression as well as develop intellectual sensibilities. As they work together in National Dance, candidates learn about co-operation and develop an understanding of the shaping of movement into artistic forms of expression.

Candidates develop the skill and understanding of National Dance, at the same time as building a sound technique, by developing the physical ability to communicate through movement. A clearly defined structure allows learning to take place in the context of safe dance practice. Each National Graded Examination allows candidates to progress to the next higher grade in the National Dance genre, ensuring that steps and skills learnt at lower levels prepare for more complex movements as the candidate progresses.

Following on from the Graded Examinations, candidates may wish to progress to the Vocational Graded Examinations as preparation for employment as a professional dancer or as preparation for dance teaching qualifications. The Graded Examinations in National Dance also allow for those participating solely for recreational purposes to produce quality work in a safe dance context.

AIMS

The aim of Graded Examinations is to provide an assessment scheme for dance, which gives the basis for the measurement of the individual candidate's progress and development, whether the candidate is pursuing dance as a leisure activity or as preparation for a professional career as a dance teacher or performer. There are six practical examination grades, numbered from 1 to 6, in order to indicate the increasing order of difficulty (6 represents the highest level).

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the National Dance Graded examination syllabus are:

- teaching a range of folk dance styles
- teaching a variety of steps, holds and floor patterns
- encouraging spatial awareness in groups, pairs and as a solo dancer
- developing awareness of the variety of music that accompanies the differing styles of folk dance
- encouraging an interest in the wide range of European cultures through reading and study

ENTRY CONDITIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

AGE LIMITS

There is a minimum age limit of 5 years for Primary and 6 years for Grade 1. There is no maximum age limit. This is to ensure that the candidates are physically developed sufficiently to safely meet the demands of the syllabus.

Children and adults should not be entered in the same set.

PRIOR LEARNING

The Graded Examinations in National Dance are intended to be taken consecutively and most candidates will wish to progress through them in sequence in order to develop and demonstrate the requisite skills. However, in cases where examinations are undertaken without success at the previous grade, the candidate needs to be at an appropriate level of physical and artistic development. Before a candidate enrolls in a class leading to a Graded Examination, teachers are under a particular duty to assess the ability of the candidate, particularly with regard to safe dance practice.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

All dances may be danced equally by all candidates.

TIME ALLOWANCES

Candidates are normally entered in groups of four. If there are less than four candidates, partners should be supplied.

	1 candidate or 2 candidates	3 candidates	4 candidates
Primary	15 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes
Grade 1	20 minutes	25 minutes	30 minutes
Grade 2	30 minutes	35 minutes	40 minutes
Grade 3	35 minutes	40 minutes	45 minutes
Grade 4	40 minutes	45 minutes	50 minutes
Grade 5	45 minutes	50 minutes	55 minutes
Grade 6	50 minutes	55 minutes	60 minutes

MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT

The official recorded music should be used. The music should not be operated by either the candidates' teacher or any other teacher, a relative of a candidate, or any other candidate in the session who has not yet been examined.

DRESS REQUIREMENTS

Either:

Leotard and skirt which may be circular or gathered, tights with hard or soft shoes as appropriate. Hair should be neat and worn off the face.

Or:

Short or long trousers, shirt, t-shirt or leotard, hard or soft shoes as appropriate.

SYLLABUS CONTENT

The warm up sequences in the Graded syllabi are not to be shown in the examination (excluding Primary). Instead, the candidates will dance the following individual steps to the current 'warm-up' music.

The children may choose to either relax the arms by their sides, place hands on the waist or to hold skirts. The number of steps across the room will be determined by the size of the studio.

Before a candidate enrolls in a class leading to a Graded Examination, teachers are under a particular duty to assess the achievement of the candidate, particularly with regard to safe dance practice.

Grade 1

England

- Skips across the studio on the diagonal, one by one
- Skip change of step on the diagonal, one by one

France - Teacher's choice of one of the following:

- French runs across the studio on the diagonal - one by one

OR

- Gallops sideways on the diagonal - one by one

Grade 2

Wales

- Reel Steps, on the diagonal - one by one

Denmark

- Eight Hurretrin travelling to the Left and eight to the Right

Grade 3

Isle of Man

- Manx Reel Step on the diagonal - one by one

Austria

- Polkas turning on the diagonal - one by one - only LDB - RDF

Grade 4**Scotland**

- Skip Change of step on the diagonal - one by one
- Setting - one by one. Four each

Czech Republic and Slovakia

- Heel and Toe Polkas forward on the diagonal - one by one

Grade 5**Ireland**

- Jig Promenades on the diagonal - one by one
- Jig Seven and two Threes. Twice each

Portugal

- Portuguese pas de basque, straight or turning, on the diagonal - one by one. (Own choice: either a mix of straight and turning in own circle, or all straight)
Hands on the waist or raised or hands placed behind the back

Grade 6**Italy**

- Four runs and two pas de basques, on the diagonal - one by one

Greece

- Basic Kalamatianos sequence, forwards on the diagonal - one by one

Background Information

Background knowledge in the form of a very basic discussion has been reintroduced.

Each candidate may present their own choice of one of the following for each country. There will be no individual questions.

1. Style
2. Costume
3. Music
4. Traditions
5. Steps and patterns
6. Geography/history relevant to the country

Teachers Choice

In Grade 1 to Grade 6, all dances from the first country are to be shown. In the second country the teacher may choose three out of the four dances listed.

PRIMARY**England**

Set warm up sequence

1. Pat-a-cake Polka

Netherlands

Set warm-up sequence

Choice of two of the following three dances:

1. Scheuvel Polka
2. Riepe Garste
3. Solo: My New Boat

GRADE 1**England – all dances to be shown**

Set practice steps

1. Circassian Circle
2. Virginia Reel
3. Sicilian Circle

France – Teachers choice *three of four dances to be shown*

Set practice steps

1. La Bourrée a Sept Sauts
2. Farandole
3. Carillon
4. Solo: Scaring the Witches

GRADE 2

Wales – all dances to be shown

Set practice step

1. Clawdd Offa (Offa's Dyke)
2. Cofi O'r Dre
3. Ymdaith-y-Cymry (Welsh March)

Denmark – Teachers choice *three of four dances to be shown*

Set practice step

1. Tre Ting
2. Bitte Mand In Knibe (Little Man in Trouble)
3. Den Halve Kaede
4. Solo: Christmas Eve

GRADE 3

Isle of Man – all dances to be shown

Set practice step

1. Fourr Oarn (Gathering in the Barley)
2. Yn Mheilla (Harvest Dance)
3. Kerrin Rinkee

Austria – Teachers choice *three of four dances to be shown*

Set practice step

1. Schnell Kreuz Polka
2. Bohmerwald Ländler
3. Zillertaler Landler
4. Solo: The Tiresome Goat

GRADE 4

Scotland – all dances to be shown

Set practice steps

1. Come Ashore Jolly Tar
2. De'il Amang the Tailors
3. Machine without Horses

Czech/Slovak – Teachers choice *three of four dances to be shown*

Set practice step

1. Tancuj Tancuj
2. Priborak
3. Madera
4. Solo: Czech Ribbon Dance

GRADE 5

Ireland – all dances to be shown

Set practice steps

1. Ballai Luimni (Walls of Limerick)
2. Doichead Atha Luain (Bridge of Athlone)
3. Rince Mor Na Tine (Bonfire Dance)

Portugal – Teachers choice *three of four dances to be shown*

Set practice step

1. Tirana
2. Sais da Ranginha
3. Verde Gaio Valseado

4. Solo: Sugared Almonds

GRADE 6

Italy – all dances to be shown

Set practice step

1. Saltarello
2. Tarantella Montevirgene
3. La Furlana

Greece – Teachers choice three of four dances to be shown

Set practice step

1. Karagouna
2. Kalamatianos
3. Sousta
4. Solo: Greek Lace Maker /Greek Fisherman

ASSESSMENT

MARK SCHEME PRIMARY GRADE – GRADE 6

Title of component	Available marks
Section A – Country One	
Style	10
Technique	10
Sense of Performance	10
Rhythm & Phrasing	10
Spatial Awareness & Co-operation	10
Section total	50
Section B – Country Two	
Style	10
Technique	10
Sense of Performance	10
Rhythm & Phrasing	10
Spatial Awareness & Co-operation	10
Section total	50
Overall total	100

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Graded Examinations are assessed externally by a visiting examiner recruited and trained by the ISTD.

The examinations are divided into Sections and each Section is composed of several components which are separately assessed and aggregated to give the Section total.

Candidates must gain at least 25% of the marks attainable in each Section in order to pass the examination overall. In cases where 25% of the marks attainable does not come to a round figure, eg 12½, the pass mark for the Sections is lowered to the nearest round figure, in this example, 12.

The Section totals are aggregated and the overall mark is given out of 100. If all Sections are passed, then the overall result is indicated as follows:

Grade	Marks
Distinction	80-100 marks
Merit	60-79 marks
Pass	40-59 marks
Not Attained	00-39 marks

However, if the candidate is unsuccessful in one or more Sections, as explained above, the total mark given out of 100 will not correspond to the result indicators in the chart. In this circumstance, whatever the overall numerical mark may be, the result given will be '**Not Attained**'.

CLASSIFICATION OF RESULTS

The principle of best fit is applied in deciding the appropriate classification for each candidate. It is not to be expected that a candidate in a particular category will necessarily demonstrate all of the characteristics listed in that category.

A candidate who achieves a '**Distinction**' classification (80-100 marks) is one who demonstrates the following attributes in performance:

- flair, vitality and skill
- fully appropriate style
- incisively-focused dancing
- precision in the technique of the genre
- consistent, highly developed musicality
- confident and accurate responses to questions asked and/or tasks set

A candidate who achieves a '**Merit**' classification (60-79 marks) is one who demonstrates the following attributes in performance:

- skill and proficiency
- largely appropriate style
- focused dancing
- competence in the technique of the genre
- evidence of developing musicality
- relevant and appropriate responses to questions asked and/or tasks set

A candidate who achieves a '**Pass**' classification (40-59 marks) is one who demonstrates the following attributes in performance:

- competence
- basic ability to carry out the required movements
- periodic moments of convincing focus
- basic competence in most aspects of the technique of the genre
- basic musicality
- broadly relevant and appropriate response to questions asked and/or tasks set, but some prompting may be required

A candidate who achieves an insufficient level of achievement '**Not Attained**' classification (00-39 marks) is one who has not yet demonstrated attributes required to gain at least a 'Pass' classification.

ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE

Candidates are assessed on their ability to show :

- technical accuracy with correct weight placement
- well co-ordinated movements with an awareness of the use of space
- an assured performance showing the different qualities of movement and style
- musicality and sense of rhythm
- knowledge of the relevant aspects of the countries studied

MEDAL TESTS

These tests are to assess technical ability and sense of performance.

AIMS

- To develop confidence in the presentation of a solo
- To enhance the dancer's sense of performance, characterisation and expression
- To develop rhythmic and musical skills
- To enhance the dancer's technical ability
- To develop precision and phrasing

OBJECTIVES

- Greater self-confidence.
- More performing skills, both technically and musically
- Ability to characterise a dance with good expression
- Spatial awareness and dance phrasing
- More understanding of traditional folk dance and its cultural background

ENTRY CONDITIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Candidates must pass the Bronze, Silver, Gold and Gold Star in strict rotation, first taking Junior, and then Senior Division.

AGE LIMITS

Junior Division Minimum 7 years and no maximum
Senior Division Minimum 14 years and no maximum.

Candidates aged 14 and over may commence in the Senior Division.

This is to ensure that the candidates are physically developed sufficiently to safely meet the demands of the syllabus.

TIME ALLOWANCES/NUMBER OF CANDIDATES

Candidates preferably to be entered in pairs.

	1 candidate	2 candidates
Junior Bronze, Silver & Gold	8 minutes	15 minutes
Senior Bronze, Silver & Gold	12 minutes	20 minutes
Junior/Senior Gold Star	15 minutes	20 minutes

MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT

The official recorded music should be used . The audio player should not be operated by either the candidates' teacher or any other teacher, a relative of a candidate, or any other candidate in the session.

DRESS REQUIREMENT

Either:

Leotard and skirt which may be circular or gathered, tights with hard or soft shoes as appropriate.
Hair should be neat and worn off the face.

Or:

Long trousers, shirt,t-shirt or leotard, hard or soft shoes as appropriate.

SYLLABUS CONTENT

JUNIOR DIVISION

The candidate performs one of the chosen set solos and a contrasted arranged solo: two dances in all for Junior Bronze, Silver, and Gold; and three dances for Gold Star.

- Bronze** Set Solo: Swedish - Maypole Dance
Swedish Buckles
- Arranged solo: from any other contrasting European or non-European country.
- Silver** Set Solo: Italian - Street Dancer
Mardi Gras
- Arranged solo: from any other contrasting European or non-European country.
- Gold** Set Solo: Russian - Red Sarafan
Easter Fair
or Majorcan dance with Castanets
- Arranged solo: from any other contrasting European or non-European country.
- Gold Star** Set Solo: Portuguese - Do Vinhedo
Portuguese Fisherman or Tarantella (A) Italian
or Tarantella (B)
- Arranged solos: two from any other contrasting European or non-European countries.

SENIOR DIVISION

The candidate performs one of the chosen set solos and two contrasted arranged solos: three dances in all for Senior Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Senior Gold Star is two set solos and one arranged solo, three dances in all.

- Bronze** Set Solo: Czech - Barevny Satek
Czech Mountaineer
- Arranged solos: two from any other contrasting European or non-European countries.
- Silver** Set Solo: Hungarian - Pillow Dance
Hungarian Recruit
- Arranged solos: two from any other contrasting European or non-European countries.
- Gold** Set Solo: Polish The Peacock's Feather
- Arranged solos: two from any other contrasting European or non-European countries.
- Gold Star** Set Solos: Spanish Jota
The New Shawl
Preparing for the competition
Romanian Dance
Harvest Blessing
Stick Dance
- Arranged solo: one from any contrasting European or non-European country.

ASSESSMENT

MARK SCHEME - Junior Bronze, Junior Silver and Junior Gold

Title of component	Maximum mark
SET SOLO	
Style	10
Technique	10
Sense of Performance	10
Musicality	10
Spatial Awareness	10
Section Total	50
ARRANGED SOLO	
Style	10
Technique	10
Sense of Performance	10
Musicality	10
Spatial Awareness	10
Section Total	50
Total	100

MARK SCHEME - Junior Gold Star, Senior Bronze, Senior Silver and Senior Gold

Title of component	Maximum mark
SET SOLO	
Style	10
Technique	10
Presentation	10
Musicality	10
Section Total	40
ARRANGED SOLO 1	
Style and technique	10

Presentation	10
Musicality	10
Section Total	30
ARRANGED SOLO 2	
Style and technique	10
Presentation	10
Musicality	10
Section Total	30
Total	100

MARK SCHEME - Senior Gold Star

Title of component	Maximum mark
SET SOLO 1	
Style	10
Technique	10
Presentation	10
Musicality	10
Section Total	40
SET SOLO 2	
Style	10
Technique	10
Presentation	10
Musicality	10
Section Total	40
ARRANGED SOLO - Country	
Style, technique and presentation	10
Musicality	10
Section Total	20
Total	100

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Medal Tests are assessed externally by a visiting examiner recruited and trained by the ISTD.

The examinations are divided into Sections and each Section is composed of several components which are separately assessed and aggregated to give the Section total.

Candidates must gain at least 25% of the marks attainable in each Section in order to pass the examination overall. In cases where 25% of the marks attainable does not come to a round figure, eg 12½, the pass mark for the Sections is lowered to the nearest round figure, in this example, 12.

The Section totals are aggregated and the overall mark is given out of 100. If all Sections are passed, then the overall result is indicated as follows:

Grade	Marks
Distinction	80-100 marks
Merit	60-79 marks
Pass	40-59 marks
Not Attained	00-39 marks

However, if the candidate is unsuccessful in one or more Sections, as explained above, the total mark given out of 100 will not correspond to the result indicators in the chart. In this circumstance, whatever the overall numerical mark may be, the result given will be Not Attained.

CLASSIFICATION OF RESULTS

The principle of best fit is applied in deciding the appropriate classification for each candidate. It is not to be expected that a candidate in a particular category will necessarily demonstrate all of the characteristics listed in that category.

A candidate who achieves a '**Distinction**' classification (80-100 marks) is one who demonstrates the following attributes in performance:

- flair, vitality and skill
- fully appropriate style
- incisively-focused dancing
- precision in the technique of the genre
- consistent, highly developed musicality
- confident and accurate responses to questions asked and/or tasks set

A candidate who achieves a '**Merit**' classification (60-79 marks) is one who demonstrates the following attributes in performance:

- skill and proficiency
- largely appropriate style
- focused dancing
- competence in the technique of the genre
- evidence of developing musicality
- relevant and appropriate responses to questions asked and/or tasks set

A candidate who achieves a '**Pass**' classification (40-59 marks) is one who demonstrates the following attributes in performance:

- competence
- basic ability to carry out the required movements
- periodic moments of convincing focus
- basic competence in most aspects of the technique of the genre
- basic musicality
- broadly relevant and appropriate response to questions asked and/or tasks set, but some prompting may be required.

A candidate who achieves an insufficient level of achievement '**Not Attained**' classification (00-39 marks) is one who has not yet demonstrated attributes required to gain at least a 'Pass' classification

ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE

Candidates are assessed on their ability to show:

- technical accuracy with correct weight placement
- well co-ordinated movements with an awareness of the use of space
- an assured performance showing the different qualities of movement and style
- musicality and sense of rhythm
- knowledge of the relevant aspects of the countries studied

VOCATIONAL GRADED EXAMINATIONS IN DANCE

INTRODUCTION

RATIONALE

The Vocational Graded Examinations in National Dance, from Intermediate Foundation through to Advanced 2, develop the candidate's expertise in such a way as to provide the basis for either professional employment as a dancer or further training as a dance teacher.

Throughout the study of the syllabus, candidates are following a vocational path, requiring a high level of commitment and with an increasing emphasis on safe dance practice. Successful candidates at this level should show virtuosity in performance, a high standard of technique and a sound knowledge and understanding of the National Dance genre, including an understanding of reference and context. Candidates undertaking a study of the National Dance Vocational Graded syllabus should also typically display a sense of self-awareness and be self-motivated in terms of their personal development. As distinct from the Graded examinations, a greater degree of personal interpretation is required and the candidate is expected to show the potential to communicate effectively with an audience.

Candidates will need to show the qualities of professionalism, commitment and focus, with the ability to manage a greater workload than that required for the Graded examinations. This would typically result in a successful candidate spending significant additional time each week in lessons, in practising and in studying independently. The Vocational Graded examinations are concerned specifically with the mastery of technique and underpinning understanding, to a level sufficient to prepare candidates for further vocational training and match current expectations in the employment sector.

The Vocational Graded Examinations are regulated qualifications on the Regulated Qualifications Framework. Intermediate Foundation is located at Level 2 (withdrawn with final examination on 30 September 2027. Please see www.istd.org for more information); Intermediate is located at Level 3; and Advanced 1 and Advanced 2 are located at Level 4.

AIM

The aim of the ISTD Vocational Graded Examinations in National Dance is to provide an assessment scheme, which gives the basis for the measurement of the individual candidate's progress and development, in preparing to be a professional dance performer or teacher. There are four practical examinations graded to measure appropriate stages of development from a general standard of National Dance education to that of professional competence and readiness.

OBJECTIVES

The syllabus objectives for Vocational Graded Examinations in National Dance are to:

- gain knowledge of a range of folk dance styles with their accompanying theoretical background
- know a variety of steps, holds and floor patterns
- gain understanding of spatial awareness in groups, pairs and as a solo dancer
- develop knowledge and understanding of the variety of music that accompanies the differing styles of folk dance
- gain knowledge of the wide range of European cultures through recommended reading

ENTRY CONDITIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

AGE LIMITS

The minimum age for Intermediate Foundation is 12 years and for Intermediate 13 years. There is no maximum age limit. This is to ensure that the candidates are physically developed sufficiently to safely meet the demands of the syllabus.

PRIOR LEARNING

Intermediate Foundation is an optional examination; otherwise these examinations must be taken consecutively. Each qualification, other than Intermediate Foundation, must be achieved as an entry requirement to the following examination.

Exemption from the Intermediate and Advanced 1 examinations may be obtained if the candidate is a student who already holds an equivalent genre Intermediate or Advanced 1 certificate of an Ofqual approved dance awarding body. Application for exemption must be made in writing to the UK Examinations department.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

All dances may be danced equally by all candidates

TIME ALLOWANCES/NUMBER OF CANDIDATES

Candidates are normally entered in groups of four. If there are less than four candidates, partners should be supplied.

	1 candidate	2 candidates	3 candidates	4 candidates
Intermediate Foundation	45 minutes	60 minutes	60 minutes	75 minutes
The Intermediate Foundation qualification is withdrawn with final examination on 30 September 2027 Please see www.istd.org for more information				
Intermediate	60 minutes	60 minutes	75 minutes	75 minutes
Advanced 1	60 minutes	60 minutes	75 minutes	75 minutes
Advanced 2	60 minutes	60 minutes	75 minutes	90 minutes

MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT

The official recorded music should be used. The CD player or other digital audio equipment should not be operated by the teacher of the candidate or any other teacher, a relative of a candidate, or any other candidate in the session who has not yet been examined.

DRESS REQUIREMENTS

Either:

Leotard and skirt which may be circular or gathered, tights with hard or soft shoes as appropriate.
Hair should be neat and worn off the face.

Or:

Long trousers, shirt, t-shirt or leotard, hard or soft shoes as appropriate.

SYLLABUS CONTENT

Background Information

Background knowledge is in the form of a discussion. There will be no individual questions asked by the Examiner. Each candidate may present their own choice of one of the following for each country.

1. Style

2. Costume
3. Music
4. Traditions
5. Steps and patterns
6. Geography/history relevant to the country

INTERMEDIATE FOUNDATION

Withdrawn with final examination on 30 September 2027. Please see www.istd.org for more information.

1. All countries to be chosen
2. The countries may be danced in any order
3. The order within the countries is as set in the syllabus
4. All step sequences to be performed from the chosen countries
5. If a dance is not chosen, the relevant step sequence should be performed first in that section

Examination Order:

England - All step sequences and two dances of own choice (from the selection signified in bold type)

1. Slipping & pivots
2. **Cumberland Square Eight**
3. Rant steps
4. **Dorset Four Hand Reel**
5. **Morpeth Rant**
6. **Solo — Lakeland Clogging**

Austria / Germany - All step sequences and two dances of own choice (from the selection signified in bold type)

1. Waltz steps
2. **Neueplattler**
3. **Dreisteirer**
4. **Siebenschritt**
5. Mazurka and runs
6. **Kreuz Koenig**

Sweden - All step sequences and two dances of own choice (from the selection signified in bold type)

1. Step hop valse
2. Pas de basque and bleking
3. **Dal Dans**
4. **Swedish Mazurka**
5. **Tolostappen**

Serbia - All step sequences and three dances of own choice (from the selection signified in bold type) OR two dances of own choice (from the selection signified in bold type) plus one non-European dance of the teacher's choice

1. Step hop and runs
2. Grapevine
3. **Sestorka**
4. **Cacak**
5. **Setnja Kolo**
6. **Uzicka Carlama**

INTERMEDIATE, ADVANCED 1 AND ADVANCED 2

1. Four countries out of five to be chosen at Intermediate level
2. The chosen countries may be danced in any order
3. The order within the countries is as set in the syllabus
4. All step sequences to be performed from the chosen countries
5. If a dance is not chosen, the relevant step sequence should be performed first in that section
6. A maximum of 2 solos may be chosen. These must be from different countries

INTERMEDIATE

Examination Order:

England - All step sequences and two dances of own choice (from the selection signified in bold type)

1. Walks
2. Skip change of step
- 3. Jack's Maggot**
4. Singles & doubles
- 5. Sellenger's Round**
- 6. Green Willow**
- 7. Lads a Buncham**
- 8. Solo — Sailors Hornpipe**

France - All step sequences and two dances of own choice

1. Steps from Western France
- 2. Père Manuel**
- 3. La Bourrée des Bouteilles**
- 4. Sarabande**
- 5.. Steps in Roussillon style
- 6. La Morisca**

Scotland - All step sequences and two dances of own choice (from the selection signified in bold type)

1. Travelling step
2. Setting
3. Slipping
- 4. Lamb Skinet**
- 5. Duke of Perth**
6. Strathspey travelling step
7. Highland Schottische
- 8. Schiehallion**
- 9. Solo — Highland Fling**

Portugal - All step sequences and two dances of own choice (from the selection signified in bold type)

1. Pas de basque
2. Bater
- 3. Vira de Tres Pulos & Vira de Lisboa (counts as one choice)**
4. Chassé step
- 5. Solo — Do Vinhedo or Portuguese Fisherman**
- 6. Corridinho**

Romania - All step sequences and EITHER three dances of own choice (from the selection signified in bold type) OR two dances of own choice (from the selection signified in bold type) plus one non-European dance of the teacher's choice

1. Walks
2. Scraping walks
3. Grapevine
- 4. Bratusca**
- 5. Bugeac**
- 6. Hora 'n doua Parti**
- 7. Damul**

ADVANCED 1

Examination Order

Ireland - All step sequences and two dances of own choice (from the selection signified in bold type)

1. Promenades - jig
2. Sidestep - jig

3. Rising step
- 4. Four Hand Reel**
5. Promenades - reel
6. Sidestep - reel
- 7. Gates of Derry**
- 8. Fairy Reel**
- 9. Two Hand Reel**

Russia / Moldova / Ukraine - All step sequences and two dances of own choice (from the selection signified in bold type)

Russia

1. Promenades
2. Garmoshka
- 3. Moonshine & Russian Lyrical (counts as one choice)**
- 4. Varenka**
- 5. Kadril Kadril**

Moldova

- 1. Moldaveniashka**

Ukraine

1. Ukrainain promenades
2. Pas de Basques
- 3. Hopak**

Czech Republic / The Republic Of Slovakia - All step sequences and two dances of own choice (from the selection signified in bold type)

1. Polkas
2. Holubickas & Vrtak
3. Tocinky
4. Pritikuvany
- 5. Polka Variace**
- 6. Furiant**
- 7. Eastern Czardas**
- 8. Karicka**

Italy/France (Provence) - All step sequences and two dances of own choice (from the selection signified in bold type)

1. Pas croisé
2. Balancé
3. Long & short hops
- 4. Neopolitan Tarantella**
- 5. Solo — Street Dancer**
- 6. Solo - Mardis Gras**
7. Steps in Provence style
- 8. Pas Grec**

Macedonia / Croatia - All step sequences and EITHER three dances of own choice (from the selection signified in bold type) OR two dances of own choice (from the selection signified in bold type) plus one non-European dance of the teacher's choice

1. Walks
2. Grapevine
- 3. Skudrinka**
- 4. Pajduska**
- 5. Crno Gorka**

Croatia

1. Step & close & pas de basque
- 2. Ajd na Levo / Rukavice**

ADVANCED 2

Examination Order

Poland - All step sequences and two dances of own choice (from the selection signified in bold type)

1. Pas balayé
2. Pas Sissonnes
3. Holubiec in 3/4 time
- 4. Mazurka**
- 5. Solo — The Peacock Feather**
- 6. Kujawiak**
- 7. Oberek**
8. Holubiec in 2/4 time
- 9. Krakowiak**

Hungary - All step sequences and two dances of own choice (from the selection signified in bold type)

1. Steps from Dunamenti Czardas
- 2. Dunamenti Czardas**
- 3. Palok Verbunk**
4. Steps from Karikazo
- 5. Karikazo**
6. Steps from Rabakozi Dus
- 7. Rabakozi Dus**

Bulgaria - All step sequences and two dances of own choice (from the selection signified in bold type)

1. Runs
2. Steps from Kjustendilska Rucenitsa
- 3. Kjustendilska Rucenitsa**
- 4. Plevensko Gankino**
5. Steps from Pravo
- 6. Pravo Trakijsko Horo**

Greece - All step sequences and three dances of own choice (from the selection signified in bold type) OR two dances of own choice (from the selection signified in bold type) plus one non-European dance of the teacher's choice

1. Kalamatianos sequence
2. Hassapikos sequence
- 3. Hassapikos**
4. Ballos sequence
- 5. Ballos**
- 6. Pidihtos**
- 7. Criticos**

Spain - All step sequences, and two dances of own choice (from the selection signified in bold type)

1. Castanets or Ports de Bras
- 2. Sevillanas**
- 3. Solo — Tangos**
4. Jota sequence
- 5. Jota**

ASSESSMENT

MARK SCHEMES - INTERMEDIATE FOUNDATION, INTERMEDIATE, ADVANCED 1 AND ADVANCED 2

Title of component	Available marks
Section A - Countries	
Country 1 (incorporating step sequences)	
Style and musicality	10
Technique and working with others	10
Country 2 (incorporating step sequences)	
Style and musicality	10
Technique and working with others	10
Country 3 (incorporating step sequences)	
Style and musicality	10
Technique and working with others	10
Country 4 (incorporating step sequences)	
Style and musicality	10
Technique and working with others	10
Section total	80
Section B – Performance, Response and Spatial Awareness	
Overall performance and response	10
Overall spatial awareness	10
Section total	20
Overall total	100

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Vocational Graded Examinations are assessed externally by a visiting examiner recruited and trained by the ISTD. Assessment is carried out by means of a practical demonstration of the knowledge, understanding and skills required.

The examination is divided into Sections and each Section is composed of several components, which are separately assessed and aggregated to give the total out of 100.

Candidates will, however, be unsuccessful if:

1. 20% of the marks attainable or below are given for any one component
2. 40% of the marks attainable or below are given for any three components. This reflects the need to ensure competence across a wide range of components

Results are indicated using the following attainment bands:

Distinction	80-100
Merit	65-79
Pass	50-64
Not Attained	00-49

CLASSIFICATION OF RESULTS

The principle of best fit is applied in deciding the appropriate classification for each candidate. It is not to be expected that a candidate in a particular category will necessarily demonstrate all of the characteristics listed in that category.

A candidate who achieves a **'Distinction'** classification (80-100 marks) is one who demonstrates the following attributes in performance:

- flair, vitality and skill
- fully appropriate style
- incisively-focused dancing
- precision in the technique of the genre
- consistent, highly developed musicality
- confident and accurate responses to questions asked and/or tasks set

A candidate who achieves a **'Merit'** classification (65-79 marks) is one who demonstrates the following attributes in performance:

- skill and proficiency
- largely appropriate style
- focused dancing
- competence in the technique of the genre
- evidence of developing musicality
- relevant and appropriate responses to questions asked and/or tasks set

A candidate who achieves a **'Pass'** classification (50-64 marks) is one who demonstrates the following attributes in performance:

- competence
- basic ability to carry out the required movements
- periodic moments of convincing focus
- basic competence in most aspects of the technique of the genre
- basic musicality
- broadly relevant and appropriate response to questions asked and/or tasks set, but some prompting may be required.

A candidate who achieves an insufficient level of achievement **'N'** classification (00-49 marks) is one who has not yet demonstrated the attributes required to gain at least a **'Pass'** classification.

ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE

Candidates are assessed on their ability to demonstrate:

- Technical accuracy with correct placement
- Well co-ordinated movement with an awareness of the use of space
- An assured performance showing the differing qualities of movement and style
- Musicality and a highly developed sense of rhythm
- Knowledge and understanding of the relevant aspects of the countries studied

REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS

The ISTD policy and procedure for all reasonable adjustments for all qualifications is contained within the Equal Opportunities policy on the ISTD website. The Vocational Graded Examinations and Professional Qualifications are designed for those who are intending to pursue a career in dance, either as a performer or

as a teacher. It is, therefore, very unlikely that a potential performer will require reasonable adjustments. However, a potential teacher must be able to demonstrate all movements precisely, in order to teach them effectively. As the 'Intermediate' examination is also now included as a unit within the Diploma in Dance Education, it is likely some candidates will apply for adjustments. This is because they are:

- Those candidates who are possibly already teaching and who do not have the stamina or muscular strength that is normally required at this level, and it would be deemed to be unsafe to require them to perform using the same degree of strength and stamina as a younger dancer
- Candidates who do not have sufficient physical facility to perform the movements at speed to the required standard, but who can nevertheless demonstrate them at a slower pace
- Candidates who, through their physical make up, would be causing injury to themselves, eg very stiff feet

The same criteria apply to candidates at higher levels. Such candidates must apply to the Customer Services and Quality Assurance Department, using the Application for Reasonable Adjustments form, at least three weeks prior to the examination entry, giving detailed reasons for the request. This will be processed giving the Faculty opportunity to refuse special conditions, recommend additional examination time, or give further detailed guidance. In principle, the examination must not be weighted to give an advantage to either the candidate with reasonable adjustments or the able bodied candidate. The demands on both must be equal.

Reasonable adjustments will be generally granted for certain specific sections of the examination, and candidates should indicate which of the sections might be affected. Candidates should attempt all movements and throughout, must dance to the best of their own physical ability. In the interests of safety and to facilitate accuracy of movement, some candidates may indicate their own tempo and may take extra pauses for breath as necessary. If required, questions may be asked, and these will be phrased in such a way as to clarify the knowledge of the mechanics of the movement. Questioning is not permitted for every section of the examination and would normally be used in a maximum of two performance sections.

The ISTD reserves the right to refuse entry to a particular candidate because of a reasonable belief that undertaking the examination will create a risk to the health or safety of the candidate. This includes any pregnant candidate taking a practical examination. The examiner also has the right to stop an examination if s/he considers that there is a risk to the health or safety of the candidate if they continue.

Pregnant candidates are requested to complete the Application for Reasonable Adjustments form so that the examiner can be made aware of their condition, regardless of any adjustment being requested, as the examiner needs to be informed, and additional time for breaks may also be applied for.

RESULTS AND CERTIFICATION

All ISTD examinations are single performances at one moment in time, with a detailed marking system awarded according to the assessment criteria and attainment descriptors given for each examination.

Examiners return the results and report sheets as soon as possible after the examination. The report sheets for each candidate are individually checked within the Quality Assurance department for administrative accuracy. Under normal circumstances the report sheets for UK examinations will be issued to the teacher within 21 working days of the examination. Any errors found are corrected by the examiner prior to further processing of the whole examination session, and may therefore extend these timings, although the department will make every effort to process these as rapidly as possible.

All results are entered by Sections, and checked for achieving the minimum pass levels, per Section and in total, and correct levels of attainment against the total mark achieved.

Results are then cleared for certificate issue, which is undertaken by the Customer Services and Quality Assurance department, and should be within 6 to 8 weeks of the examination. Copies of all report sheets and results are held on archive for reference as necessary.

RE-TAKES

Candidates who are not successful may not re-take the examination until 3 months after the original examination.

OFQUAL QUALIFICATION ACCREDITATION NUMBERS

501/0755/0 ISTD Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Dance: Grade 1 (National Dance)

501/0753/7 ISTD Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Dance: Grade 2 (National Dance)

501/0754/9 ISTD Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Dance: Grade 3 (National Dance)

501/0756/2 ISTD Level 2 Award in Graded Examination in Dance: Grade 4 (National Dance)

501/0757/4 ISTD Level 2 Award in Graded Examination in Dance: Grade 5 (National Dance)

501/0758/6 ISTD Level 3 Certificate in Graded Examination in Dance: Grade 6 (National Dance)

501/0764/1 ISTD Level 2 Certificate in Vocational Graded Examination in Dance: Intermediate Foundation (National Dance)

501/0728/8 ISTD Level 3 Certificate in Vocational Graded Examination in Dance: Intermediate (National Dance)

501/0760/4 ISTD Level 4 Certificate in Vocational Graded Examination in Dance: Advanced 1 (National Dance)

501/0761/6 ISTD Level 4 Diploma in Vocational Graded Examination in Dance: Advanced 2 (National Dance)

603/3094/6 ISTD Level 4 Diploma in Dance Education (National Dance)

603/0996/9 ISTD Level 6 Diploma in Dance Pedagogy (National Dance)