

Welcome to.....

Welcome to GCSE Dance – throughout the next 2 years you will study a mixture of performance pieces, choreography and dance appreciation work. The course is run by AQA examination board and the course is balanced towards more practical at 60% of the overall exam, interlinked with a 40% written exam at the end of the course. We study all styles of dance, from contemporary to street dance.

Course Breakdown

Component 1: Performance & Choreography

Solo performance

Students must learn how to perform as a solo dancer for approximately **one** minute.

In conjunction with the student, the teacher must select **two** of the following set phrases for each student to perform as a soloist, from the choice of four set by AQA. The titles of the set phrases are as follows:

- breathe
- flux
- shift
- scoop.

Assessment of the solo performance will focus on the student's ability to demonstrate application of:

- physical skills and attributes safely during performance
- technical skills accurately and safely during performance
- expressive skills
- mental skills and attributes during performance.

In the assessed performance, the two phrases must be presented separately (not be linked together), but can be presented in any order. They must be performed to an audible beat of 105 BPM. They may **not** be performed to any other accompaniment.

Duet/trio performance

Students must learn how to perform as part of a duet/trio dance. Each student must perform for a **minimum of three minutes** in a dance which is a **maximum of five minutes** in duration.

The duet/trio dance may be choreographed by teacher(s), dance artist(s) or by collaboration between teacher(s) and/or dance artist(s) and students.

The duet/trio performance **must** have a clearly identified choreographic intent, which relates to mood(s), meaning(s), idea(s), theme(s) and/or style/style fusion(s) or a combination of these.

The action, dynamic and spatial elements of the remaining **two** set phrases from the choice of **four** set by AQA must be developed to generate dance content for the duet/trio performance and to realise the chosen choreographic intent.

It is not essential for the phrases in their original form to be included either in whole or in part in the resulting duet/trio, but they could be if this helps to realise the chosen choreographic intent.

The two phrases that have been used in a student's solo performance **must not** be used again in their duet/trio performance.

Choreography

Students must learn how to respond creatively to an externally set stimulus, to choreograph their own complete dance. The dance created must be either:

- a solo dance of a minimum of **two** minutes and a maximum of **two and a half** minutes

or

- a group dance of a minimum of **three** minutes and a maximum of **three and a half minutes** for two to five dancers.

which:

- includes a chosen aural setting
- can be in any style or style fusion(s) (as long as it meets the assessment criteria)
- communicates their own chosen choreographic intention.

The student is not required to perform in their choreographed dance but may do so if they wish.

To create their own dance, students must know, understand and be able to apply the following, as appropriate to their choreography:

Component 2: Dance Appreciation

Dance appreciation

Through written communication and use of appropriate terminology, students must be able to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate their own work in performance and choreography and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of professional practice in the six set works in the GCSE Dance Anthology.

Dance appreciation is assessed through a written exam of one and a half hours duration.

Please refer to [Component 2: Dance appreciation](#) for more information about the structure of the written exam.

Critical appreciation of own work

To critically appreciate their own performance and choreography, through describing, analysing, interpreting, evaluating and reflecting, students must know and understand:

Revision Recourses

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/dance/gcse/dance-8236>