



Grade 8

GUIDE TO ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE EXAMINATION MARKING SCHEME

Dear Parents and Candidates,

This guide has been prepared to provide you with information about the Royal Academy of Dance Examination marking system. It is designed to help you understand how the Examiners approach their task of assessing the quality of all those taking RAD examinations.

Firstly you should read the Assessment Criteria which indicate the areas in which candidates are being marked and rewarded for their achievement and progress at each examination. Then the mark allocation table, which shows how the marks, based on the assessment criteria, are allocated to specific areas. Finally the marking guidance table will show you the precise way in which marks are awarded.

We have tried to make this guide as clear as possible but if you need any help in understanding the information or any of the technical language please contact your teacher, who will be very willing to help.

As you will see from the information in this guide the RAD takes its examining role very seriously and our sole concern is the encouragement and success of the students who take our examinations.

If you are a candidate, good luck in your examinations. If you are a parent, congratulations on encouraging your child in their love of dance

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lynn Wallis'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'L'.

Artistic Director

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR GRADED EXAMINATIONS: GRADE 8

Classical Ballet, Free Movement and Character consist of three interrelated areas - Technique, Music and Performance - which are reflected throughout the Assessment Criteria.

Each area includes a number of elements, which are also interrelated, and some of which are added as the examinations increase in complexity, thus making further demands on the students at each stage of their learning.

In the examination, candidates will be assessed on their ability to:

- 1 perform Classical Dances which require secure posture, correct weight placement, co-ordination of the whole body, accurate alignment, use of space, ability to show line through the body, co-ordinated turning action, use of épaulement, secure stretched leg extensions, articulated footwork, and the key features listed in the mark allocation table.
- 2 perform a Free Movement Dance which require relaxation, transference of weight, suspension, ability to show line through the body, free-flowing movement, elevation, co-ordination of the whole body, use of the upper back, use of space, use of gravity, controlled endings, use of a scarf and the key features listed in the mark allocation table.
- 3 perform a Character Dance which requires firm hold of body and upper back, confident carriage of head, correct arm and hand placement, articulated footwork, use of space, use of fondué, use of épaulement, co-ordinated turning action and the key features listed in the mark allocation table.
- 4 dance, throughout the examination, in time to the music and show responsiveness to the music.
- 5 dance, throughout the examination, with expression and communication.

MARK ALLOCATION TABLE

Note: The Barre, the Entrée Polonaise and the Finale Polonaise are not marked. Candidates are required to pass each Dance in order to pass the examination as a whole.

		Mark allocation
ETUDE LYRIQUE		
TECHNIQUE (Table A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure posture • Correct weight placement • Co-ordination of the whole body • Accurate alignment • Use of space • Ability to show line through the body • Co-ordinated turning action • Use of épaulement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure stretched leg extensions • Articulated footwork <p><i>Key features:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to show contrasts between light, quick movements and composure in the sustained passages • Fluid and lyrical movements • Suspension 	10
MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE (Table E) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct timing • Responsiveness to the music 		10
VALSE PRINTEMPS/DEMI-CARACTERE		
TECHNIQUE (Table A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure posture • Correct weight placement • Co-ordination of the whole body • Accurate alignment • Use of space • Ability to show line through the body • Co-ordinated turning action • Use of épaulement • Secure stretched leg extensions • Elevation with controlled landings • Articulated footwork 	<p><i>Key features for Valse printemps:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light, springing and darting qualities <p><i>Key features for Demi-Character:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed and agility retaining economy of movement • Rapid changes of direction 	10
MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE (Table E) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct timing • Responsiveness to the music 		10

MOUVEMENT LIBRE POETIQUE / MOUVEMENT LIBRE DRAMATIQUE		
<p>TECHNIQUE (Table A)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relaxation Transference of weight Suspension Ability to show line through the body Free-flowing movement Elevation Co-ordination of the whole body Use of upper back Use of space Use of gravity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controlled endings Use of scarf <p><i>Key features for Mouvement Libre Poétique</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to sustain and extend movements Ability to show contrast of movement dynamics <p><i>Key features for Mouvement Libre Dramatique</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to show contrast of movement dynamics 	10
<p>MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE (Table E)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correct timing Responsiveness to the music Expression Communication 	<p><i>Key features for Mouvement Libre Dramatique</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to show complex rhythmical structures throughout the fast moving and elevated passages 	10
		20

MARKING GUIDANCE TABLE

MAZURKA / DANSE RUSSE		
<p>TECHNIQUE (Table A)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Firm hold of body and upper back Confident carriage of head Correct arm and hand placement Articulated footwork Use of space Use of fondu Use of épaulement Co-ordinated turning action 	<p><i>Key features for Mazurka</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to sustain the movement dynamics throughout <p><i>Key features for Danse Russe</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contained, smooth, gliding quality Delicate use of arms 	10
<p>MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE (Table E)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correct timing Responsiveness to the music Rhythmical accuracy Expression Communication 	<p><i>Key features for Mazurka</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elegant and expressive Court style 	10
TOTAL		80
		(Scaled to 100)

TABLE A: Technique - All Dances	
0 marks	The work was not shown.
1 – 3 marks	The candidate showed little awareness of many of the elements assessed.

4 marks	The candidate was able to demonstrate the elements assessed some of the time. Technique was often not well established.
5 – 6 marks	The candidate showed a fairly good ability to demonstrate the elements assessed, although some may be stronger than others. Technique was fairly well established.
7 – 8 marks	The candidate showed a generally good ability to demonstrate the elements assessed, although one or two may be less strong than others. Technique was mostly secure.
9 – 10 marks	The candidate was able to demonstrate the elements assessed almost all the time, although one or two may be less strong than others. Technique was secure.

TABLE E: Music and Performance – All Dances	
0 marks	The work was not shown.
1 – 3 marks	The candidate showed little awareness of music or performance.
4 marks	The candidate showed some musical awareness and sense of performance, although one element may be a little stronger than the other.
5 – 6 marks	The candidate showed a fairly good musical awareness and sense of performance, although one element may be a little stronger than the other.
7 – 8 marks	The candidate showed a good musical awareness and good sense of performance, although one element may be a little stronger than the other.
9 – 10 marks	The candidate showed a very good musical awareness and a real sense of performance.