

Dance AS/A level

Introduction

The study of dance engages both the body and the mind, challenging you to work in a self-disciplined yet creative way to explore the choreographic process from the view of a choreographer, performer and critic. It gives you a deeper understanding and appreciation of dance, by enabling you to underpin the practical aspects of the course with theoretical analysis, evaluation and reflection. If you enjoy active learning, creative exploration and the opportunity to express yourself through movement then this is the course for you!

Year 1

Unit 1: Understanding Dance (40% of total AS) will assess your ability to answer structured and essay style questions which require you to reflect on your skills as a performer, the process and craft of choreography and the significance of dances. The Unit is comprised of two sections, A and B and is in the form of a written examination which will be externally assessed by AQA.

Unit 2: Choreography and Performance (60% of total AS) is divided into Section A and Section B, both of which are practically assessed as two separate choreographic tasks. Section A requires you to independently choreograph and perform a solo dance based upon one selection from a choice of stimuli. This is accompanied by one A4 side of written programme notes. Section B requires you to perform as part of a duo/trio with the focus for assessment being on your level of performance skill. Both pieces of work are then assessed in performance by your teacher and moderated by a visiting examiner.

Year 2

Unit 3: Content and Context (25% of total A-level) requires you to answer questions in two sections, one on a chosen area of study within ballet, modern dance or jazz dance and one other on a set dance work. This is a theoretical Unit which is examined through a written examination which will be externally assessed by AQA.

Unit 4: Group Choreography and Solo Performance (25% of total A-level) this is assessed in two sections; A and B which are assessed as separate tasks. Section A builds on the choreographic skills developed during Unit 2. Similarly it involves a practical assessment whereby you are required to lead a group of dancers to choreograph and perform a group piece based upon one selection from a choice of stimuli, in which you do not perform. This is accompanied by one A4 side of written programme notes. The work is then assessed in performance by a visiting examiner. Section B involves a solo performance of two to three minutes duration, which demonstrates your understanding of a performance style linked to a specific practitioner from the areas of study discussed in Unit 3.

Specific Entry Criteria

Grade C in English Language.