



AQA GCSE Dance

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Why study GCSE Dance?

Dance is a powerful and expressive subject which encourages students to develop their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity. This course recognises the role of dance in young people's lives and encourages students to perform and choreograph in a range of different styles. The study of professional works develops students' ability to critically appraise dances of different styles and cultural influences.

What does the course involve?

Course Structure

Component 1: Performance & Choreography (Practical) – 60%

Component 2: Dance Appreciation (Theory) – 40%

Course Content

Students develop skills, knowledge and understanding of dance as choreographer, performer and critic through:

- Applying and adapting a wide range of skills and techniques effectively in performing and choreographing dance
- Creating dances for a range of purposes and in response to different stimuli
- Developing the ability to analyse, evaluate and appreciate professional dance works

Students will also consider the contribution of dance to their personal and social health, fitness and wellbeing.

How will I be assessed?

Students are assessed through one written exam and a series of practical performances:

Component 1: Performance: (30%)

- Assessment Task 1: Performance of two short solo phrases (prescribed by the examining board)
- Assessment Task 2: 3–5minute Duo/Trio Performance (including elements of set phrases prescribed by the examining board which are developed into a performance piece)

Component 1: Choreography: (30%)

- Assessment Task 3: a 2-minute solo / 3-minute group dance for 3 to 5 dancers (stimulus chosen from a prescribed exam paper from the examining board)

Component 2: Appreciation: (40%)

- 1 hour 30 minutes written paper: Analysis and interpretation of 6 professional works, reflection on own performance and composition and hypothetical choreography scenarios.

What are my progression routes?

GCSE Dance prepares students really well for the 'Level 3 BTEC Extended Certificate in Performance: Dance' course which is available to students in the Sixth Form. It is also an excellent way to build up desirable employability skills such as teamwork, communication, confidence, creativity, analysis and critical evaluation.

Additional Information

It is ideal if students want to develop both practical and theory-based skills in Dance. In addition to students' dance lessons there are many extra-curricular dance activities and performances which students can become involved in at Barnwell School to help support their studies. The GCSE Dance course is best suited to students who follow the Traditional pathway route.