

A-level Dance

Board and specification: AQA A-level 7237

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Subject specific entry requirements:

- Grade 5 in GCSE Dance
- Grade 5 in GCSE English Literature and/or English Language
- Candidates who have not taken GCSE Dance will be considered on an individual basis if they have extensive practical dance experience.

What skills are required of students?

In addition to the physical and fitness skills required for this course, you need to be a competent choreographer and understand dance analysis.

Other key skills that will be required of you include determination, self-discipline, organisation, and communication and team work skills.

You will also need to be independent and motivated.

Course details

A-level Dance is an **academic** course which looks at both the theory and practice of dance. There is a high level of performance and choreography throughout the course. Key choreographers and practitioners are studied focusing on the history and development of American Jazz Dance and Rambert Dance Company. These developments are considered alongside a socio-political and cultural context both in Britain and America. Technical, physical, and expressive performance skills are developed to an exceptional level, with challenging repertoire- based content utilised extensively in practise. Theoretical knowledge of key practitioners and their movement language is studied focusing on analysis and contextualisation from a multitude of professional works. You will engage with the process of choreography and develop your understanding of a range of choreographic approaches designed to nurture your creative output. The areas of study will give you an in-depth knowledge of the key developments of dance within a specific artistic context.

Modules titles and codes:

Component 1 - Performance and Choreography

- Solo performance linked to a specific practitioner from Area of study e.g. Rambert or American Jazz
- Performance in a quartet
- Group Choreography

Component 2 - Critical Engagement

- Knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of two set works within a corresponding area of study alongside in depth contextual studies in relation to the historical roots and development of different companies and practitioners from alternative genres.

What kinds of work will you do in class and at home?

- Class work will include practical lessons to develop your fitness, technique and performance skills.
- You will also choreograph work on a range of stimuli and work towards given deadlines.
- You will learn the process of dance analysis, and this will require additional research, as well as wider reading activities.
- You will learn to contextualise your understanding of dance in the wider world through the planning and participation of essay writing tasks.

What other A-levels does your subject connect well with?

Dance connects well with a wide range of other subject areas. It combines particularly well with English Language, Physical Education, Biology, Sociology, Psychology, Film Studies and any other Arts subject such as Drama and Music.

What types of university course will be helped by this A-level?

A-level Dance offers opportunities to continue into the Performing Arts Sector in Higher Education institutions. Well-matched degrees include Dance, Drama, Music, Art, Media, Film, Business Studies, Education, Creative Writing, Nutrition and Health and Sport or Exercise Science.

Many past students have also gone onto teaching degrees within both the primary and secondary sectors.

A number of students have also continued their studies at professional Dance Conservatoires/Theatre College and moved into the dance performance industry.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to email Laura Finney