



EXAM HANDBOOK



IDTA EXAMINATIONS AT THE MISS BREEZE SCHOOL OF DANCE

The Miss Breeze School of Dance offers students the opportunity to take exams and awards through the IDTA (International Dance Teacher's Association).

On exam days we are visited by one of the IDTA examiners which is always a great honour and very exciting for our students.

Exams have become much more inclusive and encouraging over the years, with more options to suit a range of abilities.

Exam days are a formal occasion, highly enjoyable and rewarding for our students and a fantastic way to recognise their progress.

Our students remember the exam days fondly and they are a lovely way for them to grow in confidence and to bond as a group.

Examinations are optional; students who do not wish to take exams can still progress with their classmates if their teacher feels they are ready.

For more information on the IDTA please visit their website

<https://www.idta.co.uk>

THE THREE EXAMINATION PATHWAYS

We offer three pathways for progressing through examination so there is something to suit every age, ability and level of training.

The different pathways are not mutually exclusive and students may progress through more than one at the same time if appropriate.

The three different pathways are:

1. Rosettes and Stardances

Rosettes and Stardances are a fun way for students to feel a sense of achievement without any pressure. They are designed to build confidence and promote success.

2. Awards

Students can also progress through the Awards system. Awards are well respected without requiring as much preparation as the grades.

The Ballet/Tap/Jazz Award progression is: First Steps, Juvenile, Preliminary, Bronze, Silver, Gold, Gold Bar, Second Gold Bar, Third Gold Bar, Star One, Star Two, Star Three, Star Four, Star Five.

The Street Dance Award progression is One Dance 1, One Dance 2, One Dance 3, One Dance 4, One Dance 5, Bronze, Silver, Gold, Gold Bar, Second Gold Bar, Third Gold Bar, Star One, Star Two, Star Three, Star Four, Star Five

3. Graded and Vocational exams

The graded and vocational examinations are OFQUAL regulated and as such require students to demonstrate a high level of proficiency.

The grade progression is Preparatory, Primary, then Grade 1 upwards with the highest grade being Grade 5.

The Vocational Grade progression is Intermediate, Advanced 1, Advanced 2 and they are for students training at a high level.

Students can gain UCAS points for passing the Intermediate exam.

EXAM WEAR

- Candidates are marked on their presentation
- Uniform and shoes must be clean and in good condition
- No make up allowed
- Girls hair must be in a classical bun with net, pins, gel and hairspray
- Boys hair must be gelled back neatly

BUN TUTORIAL

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bAJbwTfrMtM>

UNDERWEAR

- All boys and girls must wear nude seamless dance underwear for exams.
- This is our recommended range <https://bre.mydancestore.co.uk/dance-underwear.html>
- Alternatively they may wear their uniform without underwear.

BALLET AND TAP EXAM WEAR

- Uniform leotard
- No cardigan
- Ballet shoes/tap shoes
- Ballet socks for: Rosettes, Preparatory, Primary and Grade 1
- Ballet Tights for: Stardances, Grade 2 - Grade 5, Bronze/Silver/Gold Award and vocational grades

JAZZ AND ACRO

- Uniform leotard with bare legs/dance shorts/dance tights
- Bare feet or foot thongs/half shoes

STREET DANCE

- Uniform T-Shirt
- Plain joggers/shorts/leggings
- Trainers
- girls hair to be slicked back in a ponytail with gel

WHAT DOES THE EXAM PROCESS INVOLVE?

Preparatory Ballet:

Children enter in groups of 3 or 4 without teacher accompaniment. They perform a sequence of short exercises and dances that they have learned and rehearsed so they know them off by heart.

The examiner will give little helpful reminders if necessary.

If successful, candidates receive a plaque, certificate and report form.

Preparatory Tap:

Children enter in groups of 3 or 4 without teacher accompaniment. They perform a sequence of short exercises and dances that they have learned and rehearsed so they know them off by heart.

The examiner will give little helpful reminders if necessary.

If successful, candidates receive a plaque, certificate and report form.

Primary/Grade 1/Grade 2/Grade 3 Ballet:

Children enter in groups of 2 or 3 without teacher accompaniment. They perform a sequence of short exercises and dances that they have learned and rehearsed so they know them off by heart. They will also do some improvised creative movement to show their ability to interpret music and show expression. The examiner will also give them each a clapping rhythm to repeat. The examiner will give little helpful reminders if necessary.

If successful, candidates receive a plaque, certificate and report form.

Primary/Grade 1/Grade 2/Grade 3 Tap:

Students enter in groups of 2 or 3 without teacher accompaniment. They perform a sequence of short exercises and dances that they have learned and rehearsed so they know them off by heart. The examiner will also give them each a clapping rhythm to repeat.

If successful, candidates receive a plaque, certificate and report form.

Grade 4/Grade 5 Ballet:

Students enter in groups of 2 or 3 without teacher accompaniment. They perform a sequence of exercises and dances that they have learned and rehearsed so they know them off by heart. They will also perform an improvised creative movement piece to show their ability to interpret music and show expression. To test the students on their knowledge of ballet terminology, the examiner will give verbal instructions to a short dance that they haven't done before. The students will then work out the steps and perform the sequence.

If successful, candidates receive a plaque, certificate and report form.

Grade 4/Grade 5 Tap:

Students enter in groups of 2 or 3 without teacher accompaniment. They perform a sequence of exercises and dances that they have learned and rehearsed so they know them off by heart. To test the students on their knowledge of tap terminology, the examiner will give verbal instructions to a short dance that they haven't done before. The students will then work out the steps and perform the sequence. The examiner will also give them each a rhythm which they have to improvise tap steps to.

If successful, candidates receive a plaque, certificate and report form.

First Steps Award:

A friendly introduction to dance examinations, children perform a sequence of short exercises and dances that they have learned and rehearsed in their weekly classes. The teacher leads them through with constant verbal guidance and dances with them if necessary. A good description would be an observed class with a sense of occasion, presentation and performance. If successful they receive a medal, certificate and report form.

Rosettes:

A friendly introduction to dance examinations, children perform two short dances that they have learned and rehearsed in their weekly classes. The teacher leads them through with constant verbal guidance and dances with them if necessary. A good description would be an observed class with a sense of occasion, presentation and performance. If successful they receive a rosette and certificate. Students taking their first rosette will receive a bannerette to pin their rosette and all future rosettes onto.

Star Dance Awards:

Students perform two dances that they have learned and rehearsed in their weekly classes. If successful, candidates receive a coloured disk and certificate. Students taking their first star dance will receive a large plaque to put their coloured disk and all future disks onto. There are 12 star dance discs to collect in total.

Street Awards

Students will perform short routines as a group which they repeat until the examiner has seen it enough times.

One Dance = one routine

Bronze = two routines

Silver = three routines

If successful, candidates receive a plaque, certificate and report form.

Bronze/Silver/Gold Jazz Award

Students will enter in pairs without teacher accompaniment. They will perform two solo dances that they have learned and rehearsed in their weekly classes.

If successful, candidates receive a plaque, certificate and report form.

Classwork Assessment:

The examiner observes students performing a short selection of the exercises they have learnt for their grade with their teacher guiding them verbally. Students are required to have a good knowledge of the exercises and dances but aren't expected to know them off by heart.

If successful, candidates receive a plaque, certificate and report form.

Musical Theatre Stages 1-6

Students perform a set of vocal, singing, acting and movement exercises that they have learned and rehearsed in their weekly classes. These are team awards so they work together as a group.

If successful, candidates receive a plaque, certificate and report form.

EXAM MARKS

Grades (Preparatory, Primary and Grade 1-5)

Marks are out of 100

0-64 Unsuccessful

65-74 Pass

75-84 Merit

85-100 Distinction

Awards

Marks are out of 100

0-64 Unsuccessful

65-74 Pass

75-79 Commended

80-84 Highly Commended

85-100 Honours

Classwork Assessment

No numerical score is given

Unsuccessful

Pass

Pass Plus

Commended

First Steps, Rosettes and Stardances

There is no score given for these

Musical Theatre Stages 1-6

A percentage is given out of 100

FAQS

SHOULD MY CHILD BE PRACTICING AT HOME?

For some exams home practice is essential, for others the time they spend in class is sufficient preparation. If home practice is needed, parents will be sent videos and instructions.

WHAT ARE IDTA DANCE EXAMINERS LIKE?

We have found the IDTA dance examiners to be really friendly and they always seek to put our students at ease. Everyone always comes out of their exams with big smiles!

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO FIND OUT IF THEY HAVE PASSED?

Results can take up to 12 weeks

HOW WILL RESULTS BE DELIVERED

All results and awards are sent to the school. Once we have received them a presentation will be arranged so parents can watch their child receiving their results and awards.

DO ALL STUDENTS PASS THEIR EXAMS?

While it is technically possible to fail dance exams, we proudly have a 100% pass rate and would only ever enter a student for an exam if we were confident that they would pass.

WHAT IF MY CHILD CAN'T OR DOESN'T WANT TO TAKE THE EXAM?

There is no pressure for any child to take an exam. If they don't want to take the exam or aren't able to make the exam date they can still progress with their classmates at their teacher's discretion.