
bbodance **Specification**

**Level 1 Award in
Graded Examination in
Dance (Musical
Theatre): Grades 1 and
2**

**Level 1:
Musical Theatre**

(Qualifications regulated in England, Wales and Northern Ireland)

This Specification is valid from 1 August 2016 to 1 August 2019 (or until further notice)

bbodance is the new name for the British Ballet Organization which was set up in 1930 to improve standards of dance teaching. Our mission is to inspire excellence and promote the education, training and enjoyment of dance. We are an inclusive, innovative and dynamic organisation which supports its members through a lifelong partnership.

bbodance is accredited by the Council for Dance Education and Training (CDET) and offers examinations in Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Modern and Musical Theatre* which are regulated by Ofqual and recognised under the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF). These examinations are delivered both nationally.

In addition to regulated qualifications, bbodance offers Performance Awards and Freestyle Dance Awards for students who do not wish to take formal examinations. Information on all qualifications and awards can be found on our website (www.bbo.dance).

This Specification sets out the aims, objectives, assessment criteria and content for the named qualification/s. The document contains a summary of the examined dance content: a detailed syllabus can be found on the website and can be downloaded for fuller reference.

bbodance is a trading name for The British Ballet Organization Ltd., a Charity registered in England (No. 277177) and a Company Limited by Guarantee (No. 1402656).

*Musical Theatre examinations and awards are subject to registration and verification by external regulators in 2016/17

Dance Qualifications at a Glance

Regulated Qualifications (RQF 2016)

Examination	Genre/s	Level/Award
Grade 1	Ballet; Tap; Modern; Jazz; Musical Theatre	Level 1 Award
Grade 2	Ballet; Tap; Modern; Jazz; Musical Theatre*	Level 1 Award
Grade 3	Ballet; Tap; Modern; Jazz	Level 1 Award
Grade 4	Ballet; Tap; Modern; Jazz	Level 2 Award
Grade 5	Ballet; Tap; Modern; Jazz	Level 2 Award
Grade 6	Ballet; Tap; Modern; Jazz	Level 3 Certificate
Grade 7	Ballet; Tap; Modern; Jazz	Level 3 Certificate
Grade 8	Ballet; Tap; Modern	Level 3 Certificate
Intermediate Foundation	Ballet; Tap; Modern; Jazz	Level 2 Certificate
Intermediate	Ballet; Tap; Modern; Jazz	Level 3 Certificate
Advanced 1	Ballet; Tap; Modern; Jazz	Level 4 Certificate
Advanced 2	Ballet; Tap; Modern	Level 4 Diploma
L4 Diploma in Dance Teaching	Student's own choice	Level 4 Diploma
L5 Diploma in Dance Teaching	Student's own choice	Level 5 Diploma
L6 Diploma in Dance Teaching	Student's own choice	Level 6 Diploma
L6 Extended Diploma in Dance Teaching	Student's own choice	Level 6 Extended Diploma

*subject to verification by national regulators 2016/17

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1) Summary, objectives, aims and philosophy

a) Summary

- i)** The Graded Examinations in Dance: Musical Theatre, Grades 1 and 2, are aligned with Level 1 of the RQF and lead to a Level 1 Award.
- ii)** Grades 1 and 2 cover a basic dance vocabulary in Musical Theatre delivered at an achievable pace for the average student attending one dance class per week.
- iii)** Grade 3 will be available from January 2018.

b) Objectives

- i)** To provide access to nationally recognised examinations in dance which, at the higher level, are accepted by the industry as benchmarks of achievement and taken into account by FE colleges, universities and other Higher Education (HE) institutions offering degree courses and programmes in dance and dance teacher education
- ii)** To contribute to the development of a wide range of competencies and life skills, such as motor control, health and safety awareness, self-expression, physical fitness and stamina, discipline, mental ability and confidence.
- iii)** To provide a sound platform in dance knowledge and skills for progression to subsequent Graded Examinations and potential entry to Vocational Graded Examinations.

c) Aims

- i)** The aim of the Graded Examinations in Dance: Musical Theatre, Grades 1 and 2 (Musical Theatre) is to:
 - promote the study of dance (Musical Theatre) as a leisure and/or vocational activity
 - provide a means of measuring the acquisition of technical, musical, vocal and dance performance skills
 - promote and encourage enjoyment of Musical Theatre as a form of physical exercise
 - provide all candidates, particularly children and young people, with an opportunity of experiencing Musical Theatre accompanied by live or recorded music
 - encourage personal self-confidence and group awareness through the experience of performing solo, with partners or in small groups
 - aid the development of a general appreciation of music through performing in a variety of Musical Theatre styles/genres
 - motivate students by providing a series of clearly defined goals which have been structured to reflect the principles of safe dance and performance practice

- provide teachers with a means by which to develop and monitor the individual progress of their students

d) Fitness for purpose

i) A qualification will only be fit for purpose if it secures the requirements of

- Validity
- Reliability
- Comparability
- Manageability
- Minimising bias

ii) bbodance aims to meet these requirements through a rigorous internal Quality Assurance Framework which includes:

- identifying and mitigating conflicts of interest in the delivery of dance examinations
- Adopting policies and procedures which encourage access to examinations, minimise or remove barriers, and treat all students and candidates without bias.
- providing initial examiner training which includes seminars, 'shadowing' existing examiners and a mentoring support scheme
- Providing on-going training for examiners and monitoring their work through annual seminars, moderation exercises and performance reviews
- Undertaking regular reviews of syllabus content, examination procedures and marking methodologies in order to meet regulatory requirements and the needs of examination 'users'
- Undertaking statistical analysis of marks and adjustment where appropriate
- Monitoring the use of Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations procedures and sharing best practice with other dance Awarding Organisations
- Maintaining an appropriately skilled, competent and dedicated team of staff to design, deliver and quality assure dance examinations

e) Entry Criteria

i) No previous dance qualifications are necessary in order to enter for Graded Examinations.

ii) Graded Examinations are open to candidates of any age, although, for health and safety reasons, bbodance recommends that candidates should be aged 7 or above before undertaking the Grade 1 examination.

2) Learning Outcomes, and Assessment Criteria

a) The learning outcomes and assessment criteria for Grades 1-3 are given below.

- i) **Learning outcomes** describe what a student or learner should know, understand or be able to do on completion of a period of learning. These outcomes are defined in terms of knowledge, skills and competence. Each bbo dance Graded Examination syllabus is underpinned by a set of learning outcomes which are appropriate for the level of the examination and award
- ii) **Assessment criteria** specify the standard a student or learner is expected to meet in order to demonstrate that the learning outcomes have been achieved. Each bbo dance Graded Examination is marked according to a series of assessment criteria which reflect the level of the examination and award.

b) Level 1 Descriptor

Candidates who have successfully completed a Level 1 qualification will have demonstrated a basic knowledge of a chosen dance vocabulary with some basic technical skills. They will be able to perform simple movements with co-ordination and correct alignment. Their musicality is not yet developed but they are able to keep time with the music and express a basic awareness of musical rhythm. They are able to express some aspects of performance but this may not always be sustained. At Grade 3, candidates can demonstrate some secure technique, with growing confidence in musicality and expressive performance.

c) Grade 1 Examination (Musical Theatre)

Learning Outcomes The learner will:	Assessment criteria The learner can:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • perform basic dance vocabulary with sufficient technical facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a basic dance vocabulary • demonstrate a basic technical foundation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • perform with basic awareness of musical rhythm and tempo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate some aspects of musical timing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop some artistic and expressive qualities in dance performance • develop basic spatial awareness in relation to the body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate some expressive movement qualities • demonstrate basic awareness of performing for an audience • demonstrate some basic floor patterns

- d)** In the examinations candidates will be assessed on their ability to
- i)** Perform a series of prepared Musical Theatre dance exercises which require the ability to demonstrate secure posture, correct weight placement, co-ordination of the whole body, control, line, spatial awareness and dynamic values
 - ii)** dance, throughout the examination, in time to the music and show responsiveness to the music
 - iii)** dance, throughout the examination, with expression and communication
 - iv)** demonstrate basic vocal/singing skills and combine these with dance sequences
 - v)** perform a previously unseen rhythm exercise or dance sequence, set by the Examiner and appropriate to the level of the award
 - vi)** Respond appropriately to questions on technique, vocabulary and performance styles
 - vii)** perform a dance/dances which demonstrate the integration of technique, musicality and individual artistic expression
- e)** Candidates are expected to achieve a basic but secure understanding of Musical Theatre performance as defined by the syllabus content and with an emphasis on dance. Technical skills are secure enough to co-ordinate movements to produce combinations of steps with appropriate precision and control, within the range of the candidates' physical capacity. Vocal skills are secondary to dance skills but sufficient to perform short extracts from selected Musical Theatre repertoire.

3) Syllabus content

a) General

- i) This specification contains a summary of the syllabus for Musical Theatre Grades 1 and 2 examinations. A more detailed transcription of the syllabus content is provided on the bbodance website and can be downloaded as a teaching resource.
- ii) The mode of assessment is practical examination
- iii) The syllabus is for male and female candidates with no differentiation in dance content.
- iv) The syllabus contains 'training exercises' which are not included in the examination but are deemed essential in the preparation of the examined content. Training Exercises are clearly marked to indicate that they are formative, and not for examination purposes.

b) Graded examinations

- i) Candidates will be examined through the performance of the prescribed Examination Content as set out below.

c) Grade 1 Content (Musical Theatre)

NB: Training Exercises T1-T5 are not examined

Exercises	
1	Warm Up Exercise
2	Port de Bras and Stretch
3	Arms and Isolations
4	Floor Work
5	Rhythm Exercise
6	Travelling Step 1
7	Travelling Step 2
8	Turning Exercise
9	Preparation for Jumps
10	Travelling in a Circle
Set Dances	
A	The Lion Prince
B	Consider Yourself

d) Grade 2 Content (Musical Theatre)

NB: training exercises T1-T3 are not examined

Exercises	
1	Warm Up Exercise
2	Footwork
3	Port de Bras and Stretch
4	Arms and Isolations
5	Rhythm Exercise
6	Floor Work
7	Turning Exercise
8	Kicks
9	Preparation for Jumps
10	Travelling in a Circle
Set Dances	
A	Jolly Holiday
B	The Farmer and the Cowman

4) Duration of Examinations

a) The timing of Graded Examinations in Musical Theatre Grades 1-3 is shown in the following table:

Grades 1-3	Number of Candidates in a Set	Timings (in minutes)
	1	30 minutes
	2	30 minutes
	3	35 minutes
	4	35 minutes

5) How marks are awarded

a) Overview of the mark scheme

- i) The practical examination is assessed using a mark scheme which comprises a total of 100 marks, applied to the various elements as shown in the box below:

Marks	Criteria
Technique and Performance (Total 70 marks)	
10	Correct posture and placing
10	Strength of footwork
10	Maintained turn out or parallel hip rotation
10	Co-ordination of the whole body
10	Elevation; quality of jumps
10	Spatial awareness
10	Theoretical knowledge and accuracy of set syllabus material
Musicality & Vocal Work (Total 20 marks)	
10	Secure tempo and phrasing
10	Clear diction, timing and pitch
Performance Quality (Total 10 marks)	
10	Interpretation, expressive performance and individuality
Total	100 marks

6) Marks and Achievement Descriptors

a) Mark Descriptors (out of 10)

Mark	Descriptor
0	The candidate did not attend the examination or did not show the work required
1	Indicates an extremely limited ability to achieve
2	Indicates a very limited ability to achieve
3	Indicates a limited ability to achieve
4	Indicates an acceptable ability to achieve
5	Indicates a good ability to achieve
6	Indicates a very good ability to achieve
7	Indicates an excellent ability to achieve
8	Indicates an outstanding ability to achieve
9-10	Indicates an exceptional ability to achieve

b) Achievement Categories

Category of Achievement	Overall Mark
Standard Not Yet Achieved (SNYA)	0 – 39
Pass (P)	40 – 54
Merit (M)	55 – 69
Distinction (D)	70 - 100

c) Achievement Descriptors

i) Distinction

Excellent in most aspects of technique with consistency across barre and centre work. The quality of performance and musicality is also well developed with demonstration of a range of dynamics. At the upper end of the mark range for Distinction, the candidate demonstrates an outstanding or exceptional overall achievement.

ii) Merit

Good in most aspects of technique with some very good areas of ability. Some aspects of performance quality and musicality are well developed but may lack consistency. At the upper end of the mark range for Merit is work which is very good overall.

iii) Pass

Acceptable or adequate in the control of technique with some inconsistency across the full range of examined work. Some musical awareness and sense of performance is demonstrated but not fully developed. Some areas of the work examined show limited ability but overall the learning outcomes for the level have been met.

iv) Standard Not Yet Achieved

Limited technical ability with insufficient strength or control. Musical awareness is not clearly demonstrated and there is a lack of performance style. Whilst there may be some potential ability, the learning outcomes have not been met, further study is required.

7) Total Qualification Time (TQT)

- a) TQT is a measure of the time taken for an average learner to complete a qualification. This figure is for guidance only and does not mean that all learners must undertake a specified number of hours before undertaking examination. The introduction of TQT follows the Raising the Participation Age (RPA) legislation which will require all young people to prove that they are in full-time education until they are 18.
- b) The TQT for Level 1 Awards (Grades 1-3) is 70 hours per grade. This figure comprises 60 hours of Guided Learning and 10 hours of 'Other Learning'.
- c) Guided Learning is the time set aside for teaching or supervising learners, including weekly lessons, additional coaching and rehearsals.
- d) Other Learning includes a diverse range of activities which support or extend the learning in class. These activities might include 'homework' tasks such as online research on dance, reading books on dance technique, seeing a live dance performance or viewing a filmed extract online.
- e) Following consultation with Awarding Organisations the figures for TQT were approved by the Council for Dance Education and Training (April 2016).

8) Uniform

The regulated uniform for Grades 1-3 Musical Theatre is as follows:

- Black sleeveless leotard
- Black shorts
- Black jazz shoes

Hair should be secured neatly away from the face. Candidates should not wear watches or jewellery in the examination room.

Uniforms may be obtained from any dancewear supplier, however, for information on the bbodance approved stockist go to <http://bbo.dance/shop>

9) Teaching Resources

The following resources are available for teachers entering candidates for bbodance Graded and Vocational Graded Examinations:

- *Teacher's Handbook*
- *Specification*
- *Syllabus Transcript*
- *Syllabus Music*
- *Syllabus Film*

These resources are available for each Grade and each genre and can be downloaded from the bbodance website.