



DANCE

A-LEVEL

Examination Board: AQA

Course content:

A-level Dance is a dynamic qualification which encourages students to develop their creative and intellectual capacity, alongside transferable skills such as team working, communication and problem solving. All of these are sought after skills by higher education and employers and will help students stand out in the workplace whatever their choice of career.

Students will learn to choreograph and perform work as well as analyse professional works and learn the historical context of a range of works. The specification has been designed to enable AS and A-level students to be co-taught as well as give AS students the option to progress onto the A-level.

AS Level Units:

- **Solo Choreography & Performance:** You will be expected to create and perform a solo of between 2 – 3 minutes in response to one of three questions set by the exam board. You will produce a 300 word programme note to accompany your choreography which will not carry any marks. This will be externally assessed by a visiting examiner.
- **Performance in a duet/trio:** You will be expected to perform a dance of between 2 – 3 minutes, choreographed by your teacher. This will be externally assessed by a visiting examiner. (The two practical performances of the solo and duet/trio will carry a maximum of 80 marks and will equate to 50% of your final grade)
- **Written Exam:** You will sit a two hour exam paper split into three sections. The first section will consist of short answer questions about safe practice. The second section will consist of short answer questions on the compulsory area of study. The third section will consist of two essay questions on the compulsory and chosen area of study.

A Level Units:

- **Performing a solo and a quartet:** You will perform in a style linking to a specific practitioner. Both the solo and the quartet will be choreographed by your teacher and will be externally assessed by a visiting examiner.
- **Group Choreography:** You will create and perform your own group piece of choreography of between 3-4 minutes in response to one of three questions set by the exam board. You will be expected to produce a 300 word programme note to accompany your choreography which will not carry any marks. This will be externally assessed by a visiting examiner.
- **Written Exam:** You will sit a two and a half hour exam paper split into two sections. The first section will consist of short answer questions and one essay question on the set work. The second section will consist of two essay questions on the second set work and compulsory area of study.

Skills:

You will have physical technique classes in a range of styles to train your body for performance. You will need to be able to learn and remember movement given to you. You must enjoy watching and observing others dance as you will have to analyse and study their performances and professional works in depth. You must be prepared to spend plenty of extra time out of lessons working on various components of the course and completing your portfolio.

Continued



DANCE *continued*

A-LEVEL

Links with other subjects:

There are many links to other subjects depending on the style of dance you are studying. History, RE and Geography can help give an insight into different cultures and traditions in order to understand the many styles of dance. Drama and Music complement Dance wonderfully.

Prior experience:

At Key Stage 4, GCSE Dance forms an excellent introduction to the vocational and practical nature of this qualification, although it is not essential. Students interested in this KS5 course must demonstrate enthusiasm, energy and the ability to work hard both individually and as part of a team.