

ROYAL
ACADEMY
OF
DANCE

Focus on
Exams

Issue 3 2021



Attainment bands

Reasonable Adjustment and Special Consideration

INSURANCE SOLUTIONS FOR DANCE TEACHERS AND INSTRUCTORS



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Welcome

Welcome to *Focus on Exams*

Although a finalised date is not yet in place, we will soon be moving to our new RAD headquarters. It is exciting to anticipate this move, not least because of the lovely studio spaces for RAD dancers, but because it also brings with it a sense of being able to move forward – something that has been very hard to do during the last couple of years. It also brings with it a sense of reflection as we contemplate the last ballet exams in Battersea Square!

We are also working with the Artistic Department to review teacher feedback from our questionnaire on the syllabus and how this is used. It is always useful to reflect on existing work, and to identify ways in which we can help teacher to improve their understanding of the syllabus, and consequently the way that they are able to support their candidates in their exams. We will keep teachers updated with further news on this project as we progress.

Other developments include the continued rollout of the marking app, reviewing of processes and

procedures round filmed exams and certificate printing as well as recruitment, hire and training due to staffing changes. With these projects and developments and the move to the new headquarters, it will be a busy run up to the end of the year!

In this edition we cover general reminders and news, as well as looking more closely at the difference between Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations.

Stay safe and best wishes

James Stockdale
Director of Examinations



If you have any questions or feedback about RAD exams, contact us at exams@rad.org.uk

RAD A Level Dance



ONLINE
OPEN
DAY

The RAD will be holding an online open day on **Saturday 27 November 2021** for parents and prospective students interested in applying for the A Level Dance course starting September 2022.

Book your space now.

To be kept informed of other open days for GCSE and A Level Dance, please **sign up to our e-news** or contact **dancestudies@rad.org.uk**

Photo: Kirsty Yeung





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Editor: Harriet Grant
Front cover photo: Elliott Franks

Focus on Exams is published by the Royal Academy of Dance, a charity registered in England and Wales No. 312826 on behalf of the worldwide Royal Academy of Dance Group. Contact details for RAD Group offices may be found on pp9-12. VAT Registration Number: GB 603 1763 71

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Attainment bands – January 2022

We have now had sign-off from the regulators for adjustment to the attainment bands for exams (Pass, Merit, High Merit, Distinction, High Distinction).

The change will take place from 1 January 2022 – this means that any exam **entered** from this date will have the new bandings. Exams entered prior to this date will have the old bandings (Pass, Merit, Distinction).

We hope that the changes will be helpful to candidates and teachers, and will prove a more accurate reflection of achievement.

These new bands will be shown on certificates, however, at this stage there will be no changes to medals. It should also be noted that candidates will not be able to change their banding retrospectively, i.e. any replacement certificates for exams entered before 1 January 2022 will still use the classification which they were originally awarded.

Graded and vocational graded exams in dance at RQF Level 3 are allocated points on the UCAS* tariff and we are awaiting information on the way in which our revised bandings will affect the points table.

**UCAS is a UK based Universities and Colleges Admissions Service. See their [website](#) for further details about UCAS points and RAD qualifications.*

Result classification	Total marks	Medal classification (graded exams only)
Standard not attained	0 - 39	n/a
Pass	40 – 54	Bronze
Merit	55 – 64	Silver
High Merit	65 – 74	
Distinction	75 – 84	Gold
High Distinction	85 - 100	

What's the difference?

Reasonable Adjustment and Special Consideration

Reasonable adjustments – before the exam

These are administrative or logistical measures that can be put into place to help candidates with access to exams.

Examples include:

- A candidate with hearing difficulties requests that the examiner wears a microphone or gives all instructions clearly and slowly, and may have to repeat an instruction for clarity.
- A candidate with additional learning needs that may require more time to complete the exam than normally allocated.
- A reasonable adjustment form can also be completed where the candidate simply wishes to make the examiner aware of certain circumstances:
 - A candidate requests an adjustment to uniform to help them feel comfortable and confident (this could be for cultural, religious, age or gender reasons)
 - A candidate wants to inform the examiner that they are diabetic and might need to take a fruit juice or similar if needed.

In this instance, there would be no 'adjustment' to procedure as such, the form is simply to ensure examiner awareness and the smooth running of the exam.

Reasonable adjustments do not change the marking criteria of an exam.

Special consideration – after entering for an exam

This is where a change or event **after** exam entry (either before or during the exam) influences the candidate's performance, and because of this incident, a post exam special consideration mark may be added to a candidate's overall result.

Examples include:

- A fire alarm sounds during the exam, forcing candidates and examiner leave the building to follow the fire evacuation procedure.
- A pianist/examiner is delayed by traffic, meaning the exam starts late.
- A student receives bad news on the morning of their exam, such as a family bereavement.
- Regular learning has had a prolonged disruption by unforeseen events - such as Covid-19.

Such marks would be listed under Special Consideration in the candidate's result form.

Updates and reminders

Registration, certificates and spelling

All teachers worldwide can now register their own students in RAD Online Exam Entries. The process is instantaneous and ID numbers are immediately available.

The text used to register students will be used for all documents and certificates, so ensure each name is spelled correctly, is listed in the correct order (e.g. the way that you would like it to appear on the certificate), that there are no extra spaces, and don't use capital letters like this:

- Milly Thomas ✓
- MILLY THOMAS ✗

When you add/change a student's name in RAD Online Exam Entries, ensure you change the name in all the name fields, including the **Display name** field in the **further details tab** (this is the place where the certificate name is listed – see screenshot below). Once the details are updated in the 'Manage My Students' area, it will be correct on the exam entry and certificate.

STUDENT (FIELDS WITH RED ASTERISKS ARE MA

SAVE SAVE & CREATE ANOTHER SAVE AND CLOSE CLOSE MERGE STUDENT

Student First Name * Milly Middle Names

Title Miss Student Number

Date of birth (DD/MM YYYY)* 01/01/2000

SCN Nationality

Business School Has Reduced Fees

HESA unique student identifier Disabled Student Allowance

Student Support Number Include in HEAPES return to HEFCE

LUI Number

Further Details Access Registrations Events Programme Registrations Cer

Previous Surname(s)

Display Name Milly Thomas

Updates and reminders

Filmed exams

Teachers are reminded that filmed exams are permitted until December 2022. This extension includes all exam adaptations previously listed.

Examiner lateral flow tests and vaccinations

Where possible and relevant in their country of residence, we will be encouraging all examiners to take rapid lateral flow tests before any in-person exams, and will provide guidance on this where necessary. If any schools require visitors to take these tests, following their own school's policy, **please inform your organiser and include this information in your entry.** We will not be stipulating a policy on vaccinations, and any teachers who have concerns may be more reassured by the filming option.

Uniform and underwear

The RAD places the safeguarding of children and young people at the heart of its policy making. It is important that candidates (and their parents/guardians) feel comfortable, and should not be made uneasy with any of the uniform requests made by teachers. It is **not acceptable** for teachers to prohibit candidates from wearing underwear underneath their exam uniform. We do recommend that underwear should not be visible and options that are seamless and match the candidate's skin tone are recommended.

Music operators

It is strongly advised that teachers do not act as pianist or operate the playback equipment in an exam. Examiners have observed that when this does occur, candidates, particularly young candidates, can become easily distracted and their concentration and performance can be adversely affected. If there is no available alternative, and the teacher does need to perform this role, the following guidelines should be followed:

- A screen should be placed between the performing space and the piano/sound system.

OR

- The teacher should sit with their back towards the performance space and not interact or make eye contact with the candidates.

In both cases the CD operator should have clear sight of the examiner throughout the examination.

Candidates should be made aware beforehand that the examiner will conduct the exam and that the teacher will not assist at any point.

Parents or guardians of candidates or candidates who are entered for an exam in the same session should not operate the music in the exam.

Mobile phones should be switched off during all exams and should not be used by the music operator or pianist.

Successful Solo Seal candidates

The Solo Seal is the highest level of exam offered by the RAD.

Candidates perform three solo variations and a virtuoso finale (choreographed by the candidate or their teacher), requiring a high degree of technical and expressive artistry, in front of an audience.

They must achieve a minimum of 8 marks (out of 10) in every component in order to pass. In a typical year, no more than 20-30 candidates around the world achieve this prestigious award.

Congratulations to the following:

Australia

Pearl Arrowsmith (September 2019)

Caitlin Garlick (September 2019)

Isabella Knight (November 2020)

Jade Marquez (September 2020)

Jazmin Marquez (July 2019)

Penelope Rojas-Antonuccio
(July 2019)

Neve Torok (November 2020)

Lucinda Worthing-Shore
(September 2019)

Mia Zanardo (August 2020)

Canada

Madelena Klein (March 2020)

New Zealand

Stella Byers (September 2019)

Briese Phelan-Boyd
(September 2019)

South Africa

Tayla De Bie (June 2021)

Savannah Jacobson (June 2021)

Paige McElligott (September 2019)

UK

Poppy Frankel (December 2020)

Charlie Mellor (December 2020)

Edward Truelove (December 2020)

USA

Bethany Radford (June 2021)

Panel of Examiners

We would like to thank our panel of examiners for their continued support and dedication as they continue to examine filmed exams from around the world, as well as 'live' where in-person travel is possible.

In memoriam

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of UK-based examiner, Karen Harris. Our thoughts are with Karen's family, friends and RAD colleagues at this difficult time.

Fond farewell

We would like to take this opportunity to thank four long-standing examiners who have retired over the last year; June Christian (UK), Annette Dirickx, Sheila Laing, and Joy Ransley (Australia). Between them they have dedicated over 160 years to the Panel of Examiners! We wish them all the very best in their retirement.

Recruitment and training

We are getting ready to hold a new examiner training programme at RAD headquarters in October and November. The trainees applied in February 2020, so we are pleased we can finally progress this part of their recruitment.

We are not currently accepting new applications, while we focus on planning the remaining auditions and training programmes for the applicants whose recruitment has been delayed due to the pandemic.

When we open for applications again, details of the RAD examiner role and the application process will be advertised on the 'Current Vacancies' page on the RAD website, via members' publications, and on the RAD's social media sites. We do not anticipate further recruitment to happen until 2023/24 at the earliest. General queries about examiner recruitment can be sent to examinerrecruitment@rad.org.uk.

Contacts

Staff update

We bid a fond farewell to **Sara-Jane Mulryan**, our Panel of Examiners Manager, **Suzie Partridge**, our Qualifications and Partnerships Officer, and to **Antonella Di Franco**, our Customer Services Manager, and wish them the best of luck with their future endeavours. Congratulations also to **Lillian Doleman** on her promotion to Panel of Examiners Manager.

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Photo: Richard Allen

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