

Principal Assessor Report 2004

Assessment Panel:

Drama, Dance & Theatre

Qualification area

**Subject(s) and Level(s)
Included in this report**

Dance Practice: Higher

Statistical information: update

Number of entries in 2003	29
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Number of entries in 2004	61
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General comments re entry numbers

Encouraging seeing a year on year increase in candidate entries.

Statistical Information: Performance of candidates

Distribution of awards

Distribution of awards	%	Cum %	Number of candidates
A	1.6	1.6	1
B	41.0	42.6	25
C	50.8	93.4	31
D			
No award	6.6	100.0	4

Comments on any significant changes in percentages or distribution of awards

No significant change in the distribution of the awards from previous years.

Grade boundaries for each subject area included in the report

Grade boundaries	Lowest Mark
A	140
B	120
C	100
D	
No award	

Comments on candidate performance

General comments

The majority of the candidates performed to a satisfactory standard.

Very good to see an increase of over 100% from last year's entries.

Some candidates' written work and choreography seemed under-prepared and their marks reflected this.

There was, overall, a satisfactory spread of results.

Areas of external assessment in which candidates performed well

Plan

Some candidates included excellent detail in their plan for their choreography; their work was well researched and demonstrated a clear understanding of the task of planning a piece of choreography.

Candidates showed good evidence of research in their appendices and demonstrated the ability to use this to enhance their plan.

Development

Some candidates presented their two chosen techniques well and had been fully prepared by their centre. There was evidence of good alignment, musicality and performance skills from a number of candidates.

The quality of the choreography was varied. However, there were pieces that were highly innovative and demonstrated a solid understanding of choreographic devices and form.

A number of candidates chose challenging and thoughtful music and had made some interesting and well planned costume and prop choices.

Evaluation

The candidates presented some insightful and reflective evaluations of their practical assignment. Some gave a very personal account of their experience, not only of the development stage, but also the course as a whole.

Areas of external assessment in which candidates had difficulty

Plan

In a number of instances candidates didn't present a full enough introduction. A substantial amount of detail is required by the marking scheme and candidates subsequently lost marks through lack of detail.

Some candidates missed out sections of the plan and lost marks accordingly.

Some candidates did not fully understand the elements in the action plan. There are two distinct areas that need to be covered – their choreography and their dance techniques (i.e. the two chosen dance styles). It is important that candidates are able to make the distinction between these sections for them to achieve better results for the planning section of this qualification.

Clear referencing to the appendices could be demonstrated and some appendices would have benefited from being more individual in their presentation.

Development

Although there was some good evidence of alignment and technical ability it is felt that further refinement and a greater understanding of these elements is necessary for candidates entering this level of qualification.

Candidates would benefit from a greater understanding of choreographic devices and how to use them successfully in their choreography. Centres should encourage each candidate's own individual choreographic style.

Evaluation

Candidates could make better use of the notes they are allowed to take into the evaluation exam. Some candidates did not cover all the points they made in their notes.

Candidates would benefit from greater guidance on how to critically evaluate all aspects of their work and not just focus on a few elements. Some candidates lost marks because of this.

Recommendations

Feedback to centres

Plan

Candidates need to ensure that they fully understand the two elements of the practical assignment – choreography & technique.

Candidates should endeavour to clearly reference their plan to their appendix.

Candidates need to include all the areas covered in the marking instructions.

Development

Candidates need to be fully aware of basic choreographic techniques and be encouraged to develop their ideas.

Candidates should display a greater understanding and knowledge of alignment and work to refine their technical dance skills to a higher standard.

Evaluation

Candidates should make better use of their notes and cover all the required areas.

Candidates should evaluate their work with a more critical eye.