

# GCSE, AS and A Level Dance: Decisions on Conditions and Guidance



In February 2015 we published a consultation about the rules and guidance we proposed to put in place for reformed GCSEs, AS and A level qualifications in dance.

This consultation set out draft Subject Level Conditions and guidance that would apply to all reformed GCSE, AS and A level qualifications in dance.

We have reviewed the responses to the consultation and are now announcing our decisions. We are also publishing a more detailed analysis of the responses alongside this document.<sup>1</sup>

## Weighting of non-exam assessment

Although this was not covered in this consultation, a number of respondents raised concerns that reformed qualifications in dance focused too much on written examinations, and not enough on practical performance.

These are issues that we have already considered, when making decisions following an earlier consultation. Respondents did not raise any new issues that cause us to revisit these earlier decisions. Our view remains that the balance between exam and non-exam assessment is appropriate given the expectations set out in the Department for Education's subject content.

## GCSE dance

### Conditions

We proposed to require all reformed GCSEs in dance to comply with:

- the subject content requirements published by the Department for Education,<sup>2</sup> and with our assessment objectives; and
- our requirements around assessments.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/gcse-as-and-a-level-reform-regulations-for-dance](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/gcse-as-and-a-level-reform-regulations-for-dance)

<sup>2</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-dance](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-dance)

Respondents did not comment on these proposals.

We have reviewed our proposed Conditions following consultation and are satisfied that they are fit for purpose and consistent with our overall approach to reformed GCSEs. We have therefore decided to confirm our proposals.

## **Assessment requirements**

We proposed to introduce the following requirements for non-exam assessment in reformed dance GCSEs:

- Non-exam assessment will separately test performance and choreography skills (weighted at 30 per cent of total marks each).
- Students must perform a dance lasting at least 3 minutes and 30 seconds.
- Students must choreograph a solo dance lasting 2 minutes or a group dance lasting 3 minutes.
- For both assessments, schools must provide an audiovisual recording of the dance for marking or moderation.
- Exam boards will set the non-exam assessment tasks. Non-exam assessment tasks may be marked by teachers (and moderated by the exam board), or marked by the exam board.

Aside from the issues around weighting of non-exam assessment discussed above, respondents did not comment on these proposals.

We have reviewed our proposed assessment requirements following consultation and are satisfied that they are fit for purpose. We have decided to confirm our proposals, with minor changes to wording for consistency with other GCSE subjects.

## **Guidance**

We proposed to introduce guidance clarifying the interpretation of our assessment objectives. Respondents did not comment directly on this proposal, or on the wording of our proposed guidance.

We have reviewed our proposed guidance following consultation and are content that it is fit for purpose. We have therefore decided to confirm our proposed guidance for GCSE dance.

# AS and A level dance

## Conditions

We proposed to require all reformed AS and A levels in dance to comply with:

- the subject content requirements published by the Department for Education,<sup>3</sup> and with our assessment objectives; and
- our requirements around assessments.

Respondents did not comment on these proposals.

We have reviewed our proposed Conditions following consultation and are satisfied that they are fit for purpose and consistent with our overall approach to reformed AS and A levels. We have therefore decided to confirm our proposed Conditions.

## Assessment requirements

We proposed to introduce the following requirements for non-exam assessment in reformed dance AS and A levels:

- Non-exam assessment will separately test performance and choreography skills (weighted at 25 per cent of total marks each).
- For A level, students must perform a solo dance lasting 2–3 minutes and a dance as part of a quartet lasting 3–4 minutes. They must also choreograph a dance for three to five dancers lasting 3–4 minutes.
- For AS, students must perform a solo dance lasting 2–3 minutes and a dance as part of a duo or trio lasting 2–3-minutes. They must also choreograph a solo dance lasting 2–3 minutes.
- For every assessment, schools must provide an audiovisual recording of the dance for marking.
- Exam boards will set and mark all non-exam assessment tasks.

One respondent raised concerns that the limited number of A level students may make it difficult for all students to perform as part of a quartet. Changing this requirement would contradict the subject content, which also requires a quartet performance at A level.

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<sup>3</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-as-and-a-level-dance](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-as-and-a-level-dance)

Aside from the issues around weighting of non-exam assessment discussed above, respondents did not comment further on these proposals.

We have reviewed our proposed assessment requirements following consultation and have decided to confirm our proposals, with minor changes to wording for consistency with other AS and A level subjects.

## **Guidance**

We proposed to introduce guidance clarifying the interpretation of our assessment objectives. Respondents did not comment directly on this proposal, or on the wording of our proposed guidance.

We have reviewed our proposed guidance following consultation and are content that it is fit for purpose. We have therefore decided to confirm our proposed guidance for AS and A level dance.

## **Next steps**

Alongside this document, we have published the following documents which set out our final rules and guidance for reformed GCSEs, AS and A levels in dance:

- *GCSE Subject Level Conditions and Requirements for Dance*<sup>4</sup>
- *GCSE Subject Level Guidance for Dance*<sup>5</sup>
- *GCE Subject Level Conditions and Requirements for Dance*<sup>6</sup>
- *GCE Subject Level Guidance for Dance*.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-9-to-1-subject-level-conditions-and-requirements-for-dance](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-9-to-1-subject-level-conditions-and-requirements-for-dance)

<sup>5</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-9-to-1-subject-level-guidance-for-dance](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-9-to-1-subject-level-guidance-for-dance)

<sup>6</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-subject-level-conditions-and-requirements-for-dance](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-subject-level-conditions-and-requirements-for-dance)

<sup>7</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-subject-level-guidance-for-dance](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-subject-level-guidance-for-dance)