

AS/A2 Level DANCE



Course Guide

Level 3 Two-year course

2010/11

This course is suitable for students with a strong practical background in dance (Grade 5 or above in a recognised syllabus and/or C or above at GCSE) who are also able to tackle the theoretical aspects of the course.

Subject introduction

Dance at AS and A2 Level is intended to stretch students technique, creative potential and understanding of the subject. It makes considerable demands, but for those who love dance it is as rewarding as it is challenging.

Year 1 study outline

The first year of the course focuses on the development and performance of students' solo choreography skills and their ability to perform in a duo or trio. Students will receive training on technique and the health and safety of the dancer. They will also begin to develop critical skills for the analysis of choreography and performance within their own work and in professional repertoire.

The AS syllabus is composed of two units

Unit 1: Understanding Dance (written examination)
Unit 2: Choreography and Performance (practical examination)

Methods of assessment

40% Written Exam

60% Practical (40% Solo Choreography, 20% Duet/Trio)

Year 2 study outline

The second year of the course focuses on developing the skills learnt at AS level with the focus on group choreography. Students also develop their knowledge and understanding in a chosen area of study and will perform a solo linked to this area. In addition they will make an analytical study of one set work and its cultural and artistic context.

The A2 syllabus is composed of two units

Unit 3: Content and Context (written examination)
Unit 4: Group Choreography and Solo Performance (practical examination)

SEE WHAT'S NEXT

Methods of study

The majority of classes take place in the College's dance studio, though essential to the course is viewing both live and recorded performance.

Classes will include:

Dance Technique

- Modern Dance
- Classical Ballet
- Jazz Dance Technique
- Pilates

Choreography

- With a particular emphasis on the practical application of the work of Doris Humphrey

Dance Analysis

- Looking at practical anatomy and physiology, health and safety and lifestyle issues in relation to dance
- Further choreographic study
- Analysing the significance of dances

Subject combinations and careers

Dance at AS and A2 Level is intended to give students a broad experience of the art form and the opportunity to progress to higher and vocational

education, a common progression route from the course.

Special features

Trips

In order to answer the kind of questions that appear on the UNIT 1 paper the A Level Dance students go on regular trips, to enable them to see professional dance works live. These also inform their creativity for their own choreography. Some trips also involve talks by either dancers or choreographers allowing students to question them.

Performance Opportunities

In May there is an A Level Dance Performance, an evening of dance in which students perform exam material from their course, including the dances they have choreographed. There should also be various other performing opportunities that come up throughout the College year.