

ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE EXAMS

There are many organisations that offer exams in ballet. We have chosen to train our students under the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) syllabus as it is highly regarded and recognised worldwide. It offers future qualifications as a teacher and teachers with the RAD qualification are in high demand from employers.

EXAM SELECTION

It is important to us that our students have a positive experience in participating in exams. This is why we are careful in ensuring that the students who participate are ready to be examined and are able to cope with repetition and the pursuit of mastery. Students are selected to do exams if they show the proficiency necessary for exams in their ballet class. Students will be considered according to criteria such as technical ability, posture, musicality, attendance in class, grooming and behaviour.

A high commitment is expected from Caper exam candidates. We cannot fulfil our duty to prepare students for an exam if they do not fully commit to the program.

EXAM DAY

For students in Primary through to Grade 5 will be examined at our studio on a weekday. The exams are held in May or June each year between 9am and 3pm (the information is confirmed by the RAD in April). The RAD is responsible for allocating the exam day and exam time so any requests by students to Caper for a particular exam day or time cannot be met. If you are unavailable to do your exam on the date given to Caper by the RAD, we are unable to refund any exam fees or arrange an alternative examination date/venue.

Major Exams (vocational grades from Intermediate Foundation and up) will be examined at the RAD headquarters in Darlington. More information will be provided about this venue closer to the exam including attending an orientation session.

COMPULSORY CLASSES

Exam students are required to attend two syllabus classes of the same grade per week. Graded students require 12 months training in the same grade in order to do an exam. Major exam students take between 12 and 24 months to prepare. Skill level, work ethic and attendance can impact how long a student takes to prepare for an exam.

EXAM LEVY

There is a levy each term for students attending exam intensive classes. Please refer to the current fee policy for more information.

EXAM INTENSIVES & ADDITIONAL EVENTS/REHEARSALS

Each year additional intensives are held during the school holidays in Autumn, Spring and January. The Easter Intensive is compulsory in order to participate in ballet exams. The Easter Intensives include Mock Exams, Pianist Rehearsals and Set Rehearsals. In addition to the Easter Intensive, students must attend either the Spring or January Intensives in order to be eligible for an exam. However, attendance at both the Spring and January Intensives is encouraged.

The Intensives and additional events/rehearsals are an additional cost to weekly classes. Fees for the intensives are charged to all students enrolled in the exam program regardless of whether the student attends. The certainty this provides us means we can keep the costs down for all the exam students.

PRIVATE LESSONS

We are unable to provide private lessons on request. If private lessons are available, the opportunity will be communicated to all students via the App. Private lessons are not available as a substitute for attendance in classes, the exam intensives or additional events/rehearsals.

ATTENDANCE

Maintaining regular attendance is important. Parents will be contacted directly if there is a concern about your child's attendance. Insufficient attendance can affect the whole class if the teacher is required to repeat work for the benefit of the student who has been absent. This comes at the expense of the students were in attendance as their class time is not being used productively.

TIMETABLING

Please be aware that when students start exam work in Term 3 and 4, we cannot guarantee that the class times the following year will continue to suit their personal circumstances. Our studio timetable changes each calendar year to accommodate the needs of the school. This can mean that students might start their exam preparation in one calendar year with a one class time, but may have that class time changed the following calendar year.

EXTERNAL TUITION

Students receiving dance tuition at another dance school are not eligible for ballet exams with Caper. This excludes lessons undertaken at performing arts high schools, membership to the Australian Ballet School Interstate Training Program and workshops and master classes (for example the Australian Ballet Company, Royal Academy of Dance or Dream Dance Creative).

GROOMING FOR CLASS

Students are to wear a leotard, ballet tights and ballet shoes to all classes with hair in a bun. Please refer to the uniform guide for more information.

Students in Intermediate Foundation and up may wear their own choice of black leotard. Students in younger grades are to observe the uniform guide.

EXAM UNIFORM

The exam uniform and hairstyle will be confirmed in mid-late Term 1 of each year. Please be prepared to purchase brand new items including satin ballet shoes to wear in the exam.

POINTE WORK

Students begin the preparing for pointe work in Grade 5. Students may only wear pointe shoes in class if they have documentation from Inspired Physiotherapy (www.inspiredphysio.com.au) to state that they possess the physical capability required to undertake pointe work. Students are welcome to see any physiotherapist for general reasons however we only accept pointe recommendations from Inspired Physiotherapy. Students who have not been cleared for pointe by the physio may still participate in pointe work in class but will wear flat ballet shoes or demi-pointes.

MAJOR EXAMS

After Grade 5, students may commence training for the major exam levels beginning with Intermediate Foundation. At this level exams are considered vocational and no longer recreational so the expectation of examiners increases significantly. Major Exams may not be suitable for students who have a Merit average in Primary-Grade 4 or who have received a Merit in Grade 5. If a student does not do a major exam they can still attend major exam syllabus classes and progress at the same rate as their peers. Additionally undertaking major exams is not required to undertake pointe work and it is not part of the Ballet Rep Team requirements. Students can still become qualified dance teachers (including qualified by the RAD as a teacher) even if they do not undertake major exams.

MARKS & GOAL SETTING

We believe exams are a pursuit where the process is the prize. As such, parents and students are discouraged from placing too high an emphasis on the mark. It is the skills and development of the dancer at the end of the journey, not marks earned along the way. Naturally high marks are always a cause for celebration however the results are subjective and so many variables come into play (examiner's personal preferences, students' nerves/demeanour on the day, etc.) Therefore, it is important that students and parents can take it in their stride and show resilience if a result was not what was desired.

RESULTS

The exam results are usually available from July-August. Students and parents should not discuss the results of other students. The grades and the corresponding marks are below:

Distinction: 75-100%

Merit: 55-74%

Pass: 40-54%^{SEP}

Fail: 0-44%

PRACTICING AT HOME

It is necessary that ballet exam students practice regularly at home in order to be ready for the exam. If you do not believe your child rehearses frequently, please reconsider whether the ballet exam program is the right activity for them.