

FAQ's – Examinations Department

Question:

What is the difference between Graded and Vocational Graded examinations?

Answer:

The Graded syllabus provides a broad practical dance education, progressively developing the technical, musical and performance skills of the student. It incorporates Classical Ballet, Free Movement and Character and, with the new Pre-Primary in Dance and Primary in Dance, is appropriate for students from the age of five years.

The Vocational Graded syllabus provides an in-depth study of Classical Ballet, developing the technique, music and performance skills of the student and introducing pointe work for female candidates. It prepares students for a dance or dance related career and is appropriate for students from the age of 11 years.

Question:

I am aware that RAD examinations are accredited - what does this mean?

Answer:

The Royal Academy of Dance is an awarding body recognised by the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator (Ofqual) in England, the Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (DCELLS) in Wales and the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) in Northern Ireland. This means that RAD qualifications are part of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and are included in the National Database of Certificate Qualifications (NDAQ).

Question:

What is an NCN number?

Answer:

Every state and private school in England is required to complete returns for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) giving details of examination results and performance. Schools and Colleges may claim credit for Graded and Vocational Graded Examinations in which their pupils have been successful, provided they have made a significant contribution to the dance training of those pupils. This contribution could take a variety of forms, such as allowing pupils to have time off from school to attend dance classes or providing school resources for the pupils to have dance classes. Each school and college in England has a National Centre Number (NCN). If teachers consider that a candidate's school or college has made a significant contribution they should let them know that they may claim credit for RAD examinations taken by their pupils which can contribute to their Achievement and Attainment Tables (League Tables).

Question:

Do RAD Graded and Vocational Graded examinations confer UCAS tariff points for entry to higher education courses?

Answer:

We are currently working with other Ofqual accredited dance awarding bodies and the Council for Dance Education and Training (CDET) to gain UCAS tariff points for Graded and Vocational Graded Qualifications at Level 3.

This is a lengthy process and in the meantime students may indicate on their UCAS application forms the Level 3 qualifications that they have achieved, even if they are not yet on the UCAS Tariff.

Question:

Can individuals with disabilities or medical conditions enter RAD examinations?

Answer:

Our examinations are open to all candidates. We recognise that some candidates with a permanent or temporary disability or physical condition may require special arrangements or aids to enable them to perform to the best of their ability. Teachers wanting to enter candidates with any disabilities or conditions, whether temporary or permanent, should complete the Reasonable Adjustment Form. It should be noted however, that all candidates will be assessed against the same criteria in order to safeguard the integrity of the award.

Question:

Are there specific exercises that should be presented during a Graded Presentation class?

Answer:

The choice of content for Graded Presentation Classes is at the discretion of the teacher. Generally, we suggest a good selection of exercises to fill the allotted time.

Question:

What is the recommended uniform for RAD examinations?

Answer:

The recommended uniform for RAD examinations varies according to the syllabus and level of examination. Full details for each level of examination can be found in the Pre-Primary in Dance and Primary in Dance Specification, Handbook for Teachers – Graded Examinations and Presentation Classes and Handbook for Teachers – Vocational Graded Examinations.

Question:

Are candidates able to enter for the Pre-Primary in Dance and Primary in Dance Class Awards and examinations wearing their pre-existing uniform?

Answer:

The Academy recognises that schools and parents may already have bought the existing uniform before knowing which Pre-Primary or Primary level examination, Presentation Class or Class Award their pupil or child may be entered for. Candidates may therefore wear the existing uniform for either Pre-Primary or Primary level examination, Presentation Class or Class Award until the end of 2011.

Question:

Can split-sole ballet shoes be worn for RAD examinations?

Answer:

Split-soles should not be worn for any Vocational Graded examinations.
Split-soles may be worn for Grades 6, 7 and 8 only in Graded examinations.

Question:

How should a candidate's hair be presented if it is too short to style into a bun?

Answer:

Hair should be neatly groomed and appropriately styled off the face and neck in order that the line of the head and neck is not obscured.

Question:

Where can answers to technical queries and syllabus clarification questions be found?

Answer:

Please e-mail any technical or syllabus queries to exams@rad.org.uk . These will be answered by the Chair of the Panel of Examiners.

Question:

Is it possible to claim a refund of the examination fees for a candidate who had to withdraw from an examination due to illness?

Answer:

Generally candidates are eligible for a 50% refund of examination fees following absence due to illness upon presentation of a relevant medical certificate. Specific guidelines can be found in the Pre-Primary in Dance and Primary in Dance Specification, Handbook for Teachers - Graded Examinations and Presentation Classes and Handbook for Teachers and Handbook for Teachers – Vocational Graded Examinations.

Question:

When will we receive examination results?

Answer:

The target date for release of results is four weeks from the end of an examination session. Session dates can be found in the *diary* publication for UK examinations. This is the amount of time required by our result processing team to perform the necessary quality and monitoring checks, to print and then to arrange the despatch of certificates and result forms.

Please contact the relevant National Administrator for International Session dates.

Question:

Can I use CD accompaniment for my Graded examinations?

Answer:

CD accompaniment is permitted for Pre-Primary in Dance and Primary in Dance Class Award, and Primary in Dance examination only. All other Graded and Vocational Graded examinations must have live pianist accompaniment.

Question:

Can the Teacher act as CD operator for the Pre-Primary in Dance and Primary in Dance Class Awards and examinations?

Answer:

Yes, the teacher may act as CD operator.

Question:

Must candidates have passed the previous levels of examination?

Answer:

Graded examinations - No, it is not essential for candidates to have passed the previous Graded examinations provided that they satisfy the minimum age requirements and have achieved the specified level of competence.

Vocational Graded examinations – Candidates must have passed the previous examination level before taking the subsequent one, with the exception of the Intermediate Foundation and Advanced Foundation, as these are optional levels. Distinction in Advanced 2 level is a pre-requisite for entry to the Solo Seal Award.

Question:

Can a candidate repeat an examination?

Answer: Yes, a candidate may retake an examination as many times as they wish regardless of the result. Please note that repeat examinations may not take place in the same session.

Question:

Can a candidate enter for two examinations in the same session?

Answer:

This is strongly discouraged. Candidates normally enter for only one level of examination in any one session. If it is necessary for candidates to take two levels in one session the lower level should be scheduled to take place before the higher level. It should be noted that in Vocational Graded examinations, should a candidate be unsuccessful in the lower examination the result of the higher examination will become invalid and will not be issued.

Question:

At what age should students begin pointe work?

Answer:

The starting of pointe-work is not related to age, but to the amount of strength that the student has gained in the feet, legs and torso. The decision about when to start pointe-work is very individual and should only be made by a qualified teacher who knows the

student well. A great deal will be dependent on whether or not the student has had a growth spurt, the shape of her feet and the general posture. Some students may be advised to defer the starting of pointe-work if, for example, they have had a recent growth spurt which has caused them to lose strength, while other students, who have stronger physiques, may be able to start pointe-work earlier. There is no hard and fast rule and students should take the advice of their teacher.

The Academy includes a small amount of pointe-work for the first time in the Intermediate Foundation Examination, which can be taken from 11 years of age.

Question:

Are there upper age limits to RAD examinations?

Answer:

There are no upper age limits to any of our examinations. There are minimum age requirements for all Graded and Vocational Graded examinations

Question:

How do I obtain a replacement Certificate and Result form?

Answer:

If the examination was taken from 2003 onwards then it is possible to request a replacement result form or certificate. You should send the original(s) to the Data Processing team at RAD headquarters, FAO Andrew Milton with a covering letter.

There will usually be a charge of £10 for a replacement and if you are requesting replacements for more than one exam, please contact the Examinations Department for the total charge. If you no longer have the certificate, please state this in the covering letter. If the replacement is being requested due to an error on the part of the RAD then there will be no charge.

If the examination was taken prior to 2003 then we may be able to provide an extract from the Register of Examinations in place of a certificate, but we won't be able to issue a new Result form. In this case, you should provide as many details as you recall (name, examination, school, teacher, examination location) and we will check through our archives. Where possible, an extract will then be issued. As with replacement certificates, there is a charge of £10 for extracts.

Most of the time, we will get these sent out in a few days, but please allow up to two weeks during busy periods.

Question:

What are the acceptable forms of photographic ID for entrance to Vocational examinations?

Answer:

Any official documentation which includes photographic ID may be used such as:

- Passport
- Driving Licence
- Student Union Card
- Travel Pass
- ID Card etc

Candidates who do not possess photographic ID must complete an RAD photographic ID form signed by the principal or the teacher who is responsible for the entry.

Question:

What temperature should studios and venues be for examinations?

Answer:

There is no maximum temperature for examination studios or venues. The studio should be at a suitable working temperature, which should not normally fall below 18.3°C/65°F. It should be well ventilated and heated as appropriate and in extremely cold weather extra heating may need to be provided. In hot climates, it is advised to have either air conditioning, overhead fans and/or windows that can easily be opened.