

AQA A level Dance– New specification from September 2016:

A level Dance: Subject Content

- **Performance**

Students must develop and apply the knowledge, understanding and skills required to perform dance, as a soloist and in a quartet. The knowledge and understanding of physical skills, including: flexibility, strength, cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, agility, neuromuscular coordination and kinaesthetic awareness, underpin and inform the development of both the physical/technical and interpretative/performance skills outlined in:

- Performance in a solo
- Performance within a quartet.

- **Choreography:**

Students must learn how to create an original piece of group choreography, which lasts for a minimum of three minutes to a maximum of four minutes, for three, four or five dancers, in response to an externally set task. To translate their dance ideas into choreography, students must develop and apply practical knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes, including:

- researching, developing and experimenting with dance ideas through studio and non-studio investigation
- the rehearsal process. Students must know, understand and be able to apply the following, as appropriate to their own choreography and pertinent to their selected externally set task.

- **Critical engagement**

The set works and areas of study provide an appropriate focus for students to critically engage with dance and understand the interrelationship between the creation, presentation and viewing/appreciation of dance. This specification requires students to develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of two set works and their corresponding areas of study. One of these must be the compulsory set work and area of study. One further set work and area of study must be selected from the four options in Optional set works and areas of study.

Critical engagement with areas of study must enable students to develop and demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of dance through time and location relating to features of genre, including:

- Style
- Technique
- Influences
- Key practitioners
- Professional repertoire

- Communication of dance ideas

A level Dance: How it's assessed

Component 1: Performance and choreography

What's assessed?

- Solo performance linked to a specified practitioner within an area of study
- Performance in a quartet
- Group choreography

How it's assessed

- Practical exam
- 80 marks
- 50% of A-level

Component 2: Critical engagement

What's assessed?

Knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of two set works.

- One compulsory set work within the compulsory area of study
- One optional set work within the corresponding area of study, from a choice of four.

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 100 marks
- 50% of A-level