

# Introduction to Dance Examinations at South London Dance School



130 Herne Hill, London SE24 9QL  
www.southlondondanceschool.co.uk  
tel. 020 7978 8624

Our Imperial Society of Teachers' of Dance (ISTD) examination sessions usually take place in our own studios at the end of the spring term (note – weekday examinations take place during school hours) with additional practises scheduled on Sunday's from February onwards.

ISTD examinations from Primary ballet / Grade 1 tap & modern and above are OFQUAL accredited examinations and Grade 6 and Intermediate examinations attract UCAS points:

<https://www.istd.org/teach/teaching-qualifications/ucas-points-and-glossary-of-terms/>

For reference, UCAS points for A-level examinations range from 32 (for a C) to 56 (for an A\*), so passing 3 intermediate dance examinations with distinction would give a student more UCAS points than an A\* in one subject at A-Level. However, bear in mind that not all courses will accept dance as a qualifying subject.

Where possible, we expect children to take examinations that they have worked for and feel it is an important part of their learning in dance. Examinations are a good consolidation of the work / skills incorporated within the grade and gives the children a focus and sense of achievement that will build confidence and improve their standard in dance. They are a high standard to pass and therefore require practice at home in the same way your child would prepare for academic examinations. If you do not wish your child to take dance examinations with us then please inform us when you are first contacted about examinations.

The opportunity for a student to enter a dance examination is at the sole discretion of the teacher and correspondence will not be entered into. If an examination is not taken for any reason when offered by the teacher, it is at the sole discretion of the teacher whether the student remains at the same level and waits to take the examination in the next available examination session, or progresses to the next level without taking the examination. Children are not normally permitted to miss two consecutive examinations in the same dance genre unless circumstances are exceptional.

*Below is an outline of what you can expect with regard to approximate timing and order of examinations, however, many children may take examinations earlier or later than below depending on their physical development and level of learning. Ballet examinations in particular may take place later than detailed below and children who join us after school Reception are very likely to take all of their examinations at a later date in order to gain suitable experience.*

## **Year 1 (age 5-6)**

First examination – **Primary modern class test** (teacher goes into the examination with the students)

## **Year 2 (age 6-7)**

First tap examination – **Primary tap class test** (teacher goes into the examination with the students)

First freestyle modern examination – **Social dance test 1** (a very short (5 mins) examination in which only 2 dances are shown with strong focus on performance – this is the first examination so far which children go into in pairs without the teacher)

### **Year 3 (age 7-8)**

First ballet examination – **Primary** (children go into the examination in pairs or threes without the teacher)

Modern examination – **Grade 1**

### **Year 4 (age 8-9)**

Ballet examination – **Grade 1**

Tap examination – **Grade 1**

Second freestyle modern examination – **Pre-Bronze 1 Award** (a very short (5 mins) examination in which only 2 dances are shown with strong focus on performance – this is the first examination so far which children go into individually)

### **Year 5 (age 9-10)**

Ballet examination – **Grade 2**

Modern examination – **Grade 2**

### **Year 6 (age 10-11)**

Ballet examination – **Grade 3**

Tap examination – **Grade 2**

Third freestyle modern examination – **Pre-Bronze 2 Award**

### **Year 7 (age 11-12)**

Modern examination – **Grade 3**

### **Year 8 (age 12-13)**

Ballet examination – **Grade 4** (*this is a Level 2, GCSE Grade A-C equivalent examination*)

Tap examination – **Grade 3**

Fourth freestyle modern examination – **Bronze 1 Award**

### **Year 9 (age 13-14)**

Modern examination – **Grade 4** (*this is a Level 2, GCSE Grade A-C equivalent examination*) (note, if not ready for modern examination then can instead take freestyle modern **Bronze 2 Award**)

Tap examination – **Grade 4** (*this is a Level 2, GCSE Grade A-C equivalent examination*)

## **Year 10 (age 14-15)**

Ballet examination – **Grade 5** (*this is a Level 2, GCSE Grade A-C equivalent examination*) (**some students may also take their Intermediate Foundation ballet examination around this time which is also equivalent to a GCSE Grade A-C**)

Modern examination – **Grade 5** (*this is a Level 2, GCSE Grade A-C equivalent examination*) (note, if not ready for modern examination then can instead take freestyle modern **Silver Award**)

Tap examination – **Grade 5** (*this is a Level 2, GCSE Grade A-C equivalent examination*)

## **Year 11 (age 15-16) GCSE examinations**

Ballet examination – **Grade 6** (*this Level 3, A-Level / BTEC equivalent examination can attract 8-12 UCAS points*)

Modern examination – **Grade 6** (*this Level 3, A-Level / BTEC equivalent examination can attract 8-12 UCAS points*) (note, if not ready for modern examination then can instead take freestyle modern **Silver or Gold Award**)

Tap examination – **Grade 6** (*this Level 3, A-Level / BTEC equivalent examination can attract 8-12 UCAS points*)

## **Year 12 (age 16-17) First year of A-Levels at school**

Ballet examination – **Intermediate** (*this Level 3, A-Level / BTEC equivalent examination can attract 8-20 UCAS points*)

Modern examination – **Intermediate** (*this Level 3, A-Level / BTEC equivalent examination can attract 8-20 UCAS points*) (note, if not ready for modern examination then can instead take freestyle modern **Silver or Gold Award**)

Tap examination – **Intermediate** (*this Level 3, A-Level / BTEC equivalent examination can attract 8-20 UCAS points*)

## **Year 13 (age 17-18) A-Level examinations**

Ballet examination – **Advanced 1** (*this Level 4 examination is equivalent to first year of a degree*)

Modern examination – **Advanced 1** (*this Level 4 examination is equivalent to first year of a degree*) (note, if not ready for modern examination then can instead take freestyle modern **Silver or Gold Award**)

Tap examination – **Advanced 1** (*this Level 4 examination is equivalent to first year of a degree*)

## **Options for beyond Year 13**

Ballet examination – **Advanced 2** (*this Level 4 examination is equivalent to first year of a degree*)

Modern examination – **Advanced 2** (*this Level 4 examination is equivalent to first year of a degree*)

Tap examination – **Advanced 2** (*this Level 4 examination is equivalent to first year of a degree*)

Freestyle modern examination – **Silver or Gold Award** if have not already been taken

## **ISTD teaching qualifications**