



SOLO PERFORMANCE DIPLOMA EXAMINATION

Guidelines for Teachers & Candidates

Updated 2018

Although Solo Performance Diploma follows on from the Major examinations, it should not necessarily be seen as a continuation of the Grade / Level system. The criteria differs from the previous examinations and is examined likewise.

1 CRITERIA

- Candidates must be 16 years of age by the 31st December, and have completed the three NZAMD Major Examinations in the same discipline as their Solo examination
- The minimum requirement for entry in the Solo Performance Diploma examination is an 'HONOURS' pass mark in the NZAMD Advanced Two Jazz, Advanced Original Tap & Ballet, Level Nine American Tap, and Level Six Contemporary examinations.
OR an 'OUTSTANDING' in Hip Hop.
- This is a 'stage' examination and therefore entertainment, plus a professional appearance and performance is expected. This includes music, choreography, costuming, grooming, presentation, interpretation, and stagecraft
- An equal balance of technique and presentation is required

2 TECHNIQUE

Technique needs to be aesthetically acceptable and not detract from the overall professional appearance and performance. A technically near perfect performance with little or no attack, style or presentation is not considered entertainment value and is not a 'PASS'. Neither is a poor technical performance, presented with excellent style, presentation and entertainment value, deemed a "PASS".

3 PASS MARK

To pass this examination, a student must receive 90 marks or above.
The result will be either 'successful' or 'unsuccessful'.

4 RESITS

A **six month** period must elapse before resitting this examination.
Only two attempts will be permitted.

5 COSTUMING

Dances A and B
Dance C

Stage costume and stage make up appropriate to the discipline
Impromptu - Studio examination uniform

6 LENGTH OF DANCE

Dances A and B

All disciplines - To be no longer than 2 - 3 minutes

Dance C Impromptu -

Examiners choice of music

Jazz, Tap, Ballet, Contemporary - Aprox 2.5 minutes

Hip Hop -

Aprox 1.5 minutes

7 EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS

Dances A & B may be performed in any order, and there must be a complete variation between the styles and rhythms of Dances A & B in all disciplines. Set Dances from previous Grades / Levels **may not be used for Solo.**

JAZZ SOLO DIPLOMA - 3 Dances

A Lyrical / Jazz Contemp Dance OR Musical Theatre (no singing or lipsync)

B Jazz Dance

C Impromptu

BALLET SOLO DIPLOMA - 3 Dances

A Classical, Neo Classical, or Variation - **must be en pointe**

B Demi Character / Character / Lyrical

C Impromptu

TAP SOLO DIPLOMA - 3 Dances

A Fast

B Slow, can include Waltz or Latin

C Impromptu

CONTEMPORARY SOLO DIPLOMA - 3 Dances

A Fast

B Slow / Expressive

C Impromptu

HIP HOP SOLO DIPLOMA - 3 Dances

A Up tempo and energetic

B Slower smoother movement reflecting the lyrics

C Impromptu

GUIDELINES FOR SOLO PERFORMANCE BEING HELD IN A THEATRE

Teachers who have three or more candidates for Solo Performance Diploma in any one session may use a Theatre for this examination, giving the students the opportunity to perform their dances on a stage and with an audience.

- This is given only as an alternative to holding the Solo examinations in the studio
- No audience is allowed when the examinations are in the studio

Guidelines are as follows -

- There must be **three or more** candidates
- An audience is allowed, however they must be seated away from the examiner, and preferably in front of the examiner
- The audience must remain silent, especially during the first playing of the impromptu music
- There must be a bell available for the examiner
- Please be aware of providing a hard surface for the examiners writing where it is not practical to set up a table