



Dance ATAR course practical (performance) examination marking key

2026

Marking keys are an explicit statement about what the examining panel expect of candidates in the practical (performance) examination. They are essential to fair assessment because their proper construction underpins reliability and validity.

Acknowledgement of Country

Kaya. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) acknowledges that our offices are on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar and that we deliver our services on the country of many traditional custodians and language groups throughout Western Australia. The Authority acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respect to Elders past and present.

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Dance ATAR course practical (performance) examination**100% (59 marks)****Performance 1: Original solo choreography****40% (27 marks)**

| Description | Marks |
|---|----------|
| Criterion 1: Manipulation of movement (use of the elements of dance to explore themes/ideas) | |
| Demonstrates a considered and skilled manipulation of the elements of dance in response to a clear exploration of themes/ideas | 5 |
| Demonstrates a skilled manipulation of the elements of dance in response to a clear exploration of themes/ideas | 4 |
| Demonstrates a competent and sound manipulation of the elements of dance in response to a clear exploration of themes/ideas | 3 |
| Demonstrates simple manipulation of the elements of dance in response to a clear exploration of themes/ideas | 2 |
| Demonstrates limited use of the elements of dance with minimal relationship to themes/ideas | 1 |
| Does not meet any of the above specified performance levels for this criterion | 0 |
| Subtotal | 5 |
| Criterion 2: Choreographic devices (use of choreographic devices as they relate to solo composition) | |
| Demonstrates a considered and skilled use of choreographic devices in relation to composition | 4 |
| Demonstrates a competent and sound use of choreographic devices in relation to composition | 3 |
| Demonstrates a simple use of choreographic devices in relation to composition | 2 |
| Demonstrates a limited use of choreographic device/s in relation to composition | 1 |
| Does not meet any of the above specified performance levels for this criterion | 0 |
| Subtotal | 4 |
| Criterion 3: Choreographic structure (use of a choreographic structure) | |
| Demonstrates a considered and skilled organisation of phrases/sequences/sections which achieve a clear sense of a choreographic structure relevant to a concept | 4 |
| Demonstrates a competent and sound organisation of phrases/sequences/sections which achieve a sense of a choreographic structure relevant to a concept | 3 |
| Demonstrates a simple organisation of phrases/sequences/sections in the overall choreographic structure relevant to a concept | 2 |
| Demonstrates limited organisation of the dance in relation to the choreographic structure relevant to a concept | 1 |
| Does not meet any of the above specified performance levels for this criterion | 0 |
| Subtotal | 4 |

| Description | Marks |
|--|-----------|
| Criterion 4: Technique and skills applicable to the selected genre (use of complex dance technique and skills as applicable to selected genre) | |
| Demonstrates a skilled use of complex dance technique and skills as applicable to the selected genre | 4 |
| Demonstrates a competent use of complex dance technique and skills as applicable to the selected genre | 3 |
| Demonstrates a basic use of complex dance technique and skills as applicable to the selected genre | 2 |
| Demonstrates a limited use of simple dance technique and skills as applicable to the selected genre | 1 |
| Does not meet any of the above specified performance levels for this criterion | 0 |
| Subtotal | 4 |
| Criterion 5: Performance qualities and presentation | |
| Demonstrates consistently skilled performance qualities and presentation throughout the dance performed | 4 |
| Demonstrates sound performance qualities and presentation throughout the dance performed | 3 |
| Demonstrates some performance qualities and presentation in the dance performed | 2 |
| Demonstrates minimal performance qualities and presentation in the dance performed | 1 |
| Does not meet any of the above specified performance levels for this criterion | 0 |
| Subtotal | 4 |
| Criterion 6: Alignment and placement of body applicable to the selected genre | |
| Demonstrates sound control of alignment and placement of body in relation to selected genre and technique performed | 3 |
| Demonstrates inconsistent control of alignment and placement of body in relation to selected genre and technique performed | 2 |
| Demonstrates limited control of alignment and placement of body in relation to selected genre and technique performed | 1 |
| Does not meet any of the above specified performance levels for this criterion | 0 |
| Subtotal | 3 |
| Criterion 7: Idea/stimulus | |
| Performs a solo that reflects a clear connection with the idea/stimulus | 3 |
| Performs a solo that reflects an intermittent connection with the idea/stimulus | 2 |
| Performs a solo that reflects an inadequate connection with the idea/stimulus | 1 |
| Does not meet any of the above specified performance levels for this criterion | 0 |
| Subtotal | 3 |
| Total | 27 |

Performance 2: Set solo**40% (22 marks)**

| Description | Marks |
|--|----------|
| Criterion 1: Technique and skills – execution and control of technique and skills (fluent control of body, coordination, quality of line, breadth of movement, transfer of weight, use of gravity, capacity to move in and out of the floor, fluency of the body during contrasts in speed and direction, precision and control) | |
| Demonstrates a skilled execution of the dance technique and range of skills as applicable to the set solo with consistent control | 6 |
| Demonstrates a skilled execution of the dance technique and range of skills as applicable to the set solo with minor inconsistencies in control | 5 |
| Demonstrates a skilled execution of most of the dance technique and skills as applicable to the set solo with some inconsistencies in control | 4 |
| Demonstrates a competent execution of the dance technique and skills as applicable to the set solo with inconsistencies in control | 3 |
| Demonstrates a simple execution of the dance technique and skills as applicable to the set solo with inconsistencies in control | 2 |
| Demonstrates a limited execution of the dance technique and skills as applicable to the set solo with inadequate control | 1 |
| Does not meet any of the above specified performance levels for this criterion | 0 |
| Subtotal | 6 |
| Criterion 2: Alignment and placement of body (posture, pelvis placement, neutral alignment, parallels, knee alignment, carriage of arms, landing from jumps) | |
| Demonstrates consistent control of alignment and placement of body appropriate to the choreography of the set solo | 5 |
| Demonstrates control of alignment and placement of body appropriate to the choreography of the set solo with some minor inconsistencies | 4 |
| Demonstrates control of alignment and placement of body appropriate to the choreography of the set solo with inconsistencies | 3 |
| Demonstrates inconsistent control of alignment and placement of body appropriate to the choreography of the set solo | 2 |
| Demonstrates minimal control of alignment and placement of body throughout the set solo | 1 |
| Does not meet any of the above specified performance levels for this criterion | 0 |
| Subtotal | 5 |

| Description | Marks |
|---|--------------|
| Criterion 3: Artistic interpretation of choreographic intent (spatial clarity, movement style, choreographic nuance) | |
| Performs a considered artistic interpretation of the set solo that captures the choreographic nuances and intent | 4 |
| Performs a sound artistic interpretation of the set solo that captures the choreographic nuances and intent | 3 |
| Performs a simple artistic interpretation of the set solo with some connection to the choreographic nuances and intent | 2 |
| Performs a limited artistic interpretation of the set solo with limited connection to the choreographic nuances and intent | 1 |
| Does not meet any of the above specified performance levels for this criterion | 0 |
| Subtotal | 4 |
| Criterion 4: Musicality (rhythmic accuracy, use of musical contrast) | |
| Demonstrates a strong sense of musicality through the contrasts in the music of the set solo | 3 |
| Demonstrates some sense of musicality through the contrasts in the music of the set solo | 2 |
| Demonstrates limited musicality through the contrasts in the music of the set solo | 1 |
| Does not meet any of the above specified performance levels for this criterion | 0 |
| Subtotal | 3 |
| Criterion 5: Performance qualities and presentation (commitment, confidence and focus) | |
| Demonstrates skilled performance qualities and presentation throughout the set solo. Performance is confident, committed and focused | 4 |
| Demonstrates sound performance qualities and presentation throughout the set solo. Performance is mostly confident, committed and focused | 3 |
| Demonstrates some performance qualities and presentation throughout the set solo. Performance may lack confidence, commitment and focus | 2 |
| Demonstrates minimal performance qualities and presentation throughout the set solo. Movements are largely marked rather than fully performed | 1 |
| Does not meet any of the above specified performance levels for this criterion | 0 |
| Subtotal | 4 |
| Total | 22 |

Performance 3: Structured improvisation**20% (10 marks)**

| Description | Marks |
|--|-----------|
| Criterion 1: Using stimulus to explore original movement (exploration of movement using the elements of dance – body, dynamic, space, time [BDST]) | |
| Performs a skilled exploration of movement using the elements of dance in response to the task | 4 |
| Performs a sound exploration of movement using the elements of dance in response to the task | 3 |
| Performs a simple exploration of movement using the elements of dance in response to the task | 2 |
| Performs a limited exploration of movement using the elements of dance in response to the task. May rearrange known movement with limited exploration | 1 |
| Does not meet any of the above specified performance levels for this criterion | 0 |
| Subtotal | 4 |
| Criterion 2: Using choreographic devices in relation to the task | |
| Performs the task with skilled use of choreographic devices related to the task from start to end | 4 |
| Performs the task with competent use of choreographic devices related to the task from start to end | 3 |
| Performs the task with simple use of choreographic devices related to the task from start to end | 2 |
| Performs the task with minimal use of choreographic devices related to the task from start to end and/or does not meet the minimum time requirements | 1 |
| Does not meet any of the above specified performance levels for this criterion | 0 |
| Subtotal | 4 |
| Criterion 3: Using choreographic structure in response to the task | |
| Demonstrates clear use of choreographic structure in response to the task | 2 |
| Demonstrates a limited use of choreographic structure in response to the task | 1 |
| Does not meet any of the above specified performance levels for this criterion | 0 |
| Subtotal | 2 |
| Total | 10 |