



Dance ATAR course practical (performance) examination requirements

2026

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

This document provides general advice to teachers, candidates and parents/carers/guardians about the Dance ATAR course practical (performance) examination.

Where a Year 12 ATAR course has both a written and a practical examination, students are required to sit for both of these examinations. Students who do not sit an ATAR course examination and do not have an approved sickness/misadventure application for that course will not have the grades for the pair of units completed in that year contribute to the calculation of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE).

The practical (performance) examination for the Dance ATAR course will be held during the period from **Saturday, 26 September to Sunday, 4 October 2026** (Saturdays, Sundays and the public holiday included) at a metropolitan location and, if required, major country locations. Candidates must be available to complete their practical (performance) examination during this time. A *Personalised practical (performance) examination timetable* (Appendix 1) for each candidate will be made available from **Tuesday, 8 September 2026**. Examination timetables can be downloaded by schools/providers via SIRS and by students from the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) [student portal \(https://studentportal.scsa.wa.edu.au/\)](https://studentportal.scsa.wa.edu.au/). Country candidates must sit their practical (performance) examination at the Authority's designated examination centre.

For the Dance ATAR course examination, the weightings are:

- Written examination 50%
- Practical (performance) examination 50%

1. Reporting achievement

Teachers are responsible for ensuring the practical (performance) examination requirements are met and candidates are adequately prepared. Teachers must ensure they are using the current syllabus. Any further advice on matters related to the syllabus or assessment will be published in the [7to12 Circulars \(https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/circulars/7to12-circulars\)](https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/circulars/7to12-circulars) on the Authority website.

Teachers should also refer to the ATAR course examination information published in Section 6 of the [WACE Manual \(http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/wace-manual\)](http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/wace-manual) on the Authority website.

For all ATAR courses with a practical examination, for the pair of units, schools are required to submit to the Authority a:

- school mark out of 100 (weighted for each component)
- school mark out of 100 for the written component
- school mark out of 100 for the practical component
- grade for the completed pair of units.

2. Candidates with an injury, illness or disability

Candidates who have a permanent disability or condition that could prevent them demonstrating their knowledge, understanding or skills under standard examination conditions may apply to be assessed with equitable access adjustments.

Application is made through the school on the form available from the [Application and Order Forms page \(https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/forms/forms\)](https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/forms/forms) on the Authority website. Adjustments requested for the written examinations do not apply to the practical examinations. Requests for adjustments in the practical examinations must be stated separately in the application, and relate directly to the nature and duration of the practical examination. Applications should be received by the Authority by **Thursday, 26 March 2026**.

Candidates with a long-term injury or illness (i.e. injuries or illnesses existing at the start of Term 3) must have their school apply for them to be examined in an alternative format if the injury or illness will affect their participation in the standard practical examination. Applications can be accepted by the Authority until **4.00 pm Wednesday, 29 July 2026**.

It is important to note that:

- sickness or misadventure provisions do not apply where the illness or injury is long-term and will therefore not be granted in these instances
- failure to comply with the equitable access adjustments may jeopardise completion of the practical examination requirements of the course.

Upon the approval of an alternative format practical examination, the candidate must undertake the approved alternative examination and is not permitted to revert to participating in the standard practical performance examination.

The alternative format practical examination in Dance will involve choreography of an original solo which is taught to another dancer. The performance is to be recorded and brought to the examination on a USB drive.

3. Provisions for sickness or misadventure

Consideration may be given to candidates (with the exception of non-school candidates) suffering from a temporary sickness or misadventure close to or during the examinations. The candidate may submit a *Sickness/Misadventure Application* if they believe their performance in an examination has been affected by the sickness or misadventure.

If a candidate misses or cannot complete an examination session for health reasons, it is important that medical evidence be provided to verify the nature and severity of the illness/injury. In most cases, that will mean producing evidence from a medical professional who was consulted on the day of the examination or the day before.

Applications will be considered only if made on the correct form, available from the [Application and Order Forms page \(https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/forms/forms\)](https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/forms/forms) on the Authority website from September. Applications that relate to the practical component must be submitted immediately following the practical examination.

Only one form should be used to cover all practical examinations for which the application is being made. The completed form and all supporting evidence must be received by the Authority by **4.00 pm Thursday, 29 October 2026**.

4. Principles of external assessment

The marking process preserves the anonymity of the candidate and their school. This requires that candidates and their work are identified only by their Western Australian student number (WASN).

4.1 Authenticity of the candidate's work

The authenticity of the candidate's work for Performance 1 in the practical (performance) examination must be guaranteed. It is essential that:

- the main development of all work takes place in school time
- work completed away from school is regularly monitored by the teacher
- each candidate completes and signs a *Declaration of authenticity* (Appendix 2), a legal document witnessed by the supervising teacher and the school principal to endorse the originality/authenticity of Performance 1
- a copy of the signed *Declaration of authenticity* is kept by the teacher on record at the school
- no other person works directly on any part of the candidate's submission
- the work is not submitted by the candidate for external assessment other than for the Dance ATAR course practical (performance) examination.

Teachers should monitor the candidate's work from the beginning to ensure that there is no plagiarism in the work that is to be submitted or performed for marking. If the teacher has been unsuccessful in working with the candidate to avoid plagiarism while monitoring the process of work, then the teacher **must** sign the *Declaration of authenticity* and attach a note to this effect to the declaration at submission time.

Non-school candidates are to complete the *Declaration of authenticity* in the presence of an authorised witness. A list of authorised witnesses can be found on the [Authorised Witnesses for Statutory Declarations page \(https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/authorised-witnesses-statutory-declarations\)](https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/authorised-witnesses-statutory-declarations) on the WA.gov.au website.

4.2 Applying a consistent standard

Markers apply a consistent standard to assess the candidate's performance. This requires:

- a marking key for the practical (performance) examination
- attendance at a marker training meeting prior to the commencement of marking
- trial marking of work to ensure a common understanding of the marking key
- the practical (performance) examination to be marked independently by at least two markers who then reconcile any differences between them
- the Chief Marker to ensure consistency throughout the marking by monitoring the marking process and reconciling significant differences where necessary.

5. Criteria for marking

The practical performance is assessed on what a candidate is able to demonstrate through each part of the examination. The *Dance ATAR course practical (performance) examination marking key 2026*, published on the Authority website, identifies the assessment criteria and describes levels of candidate performance for each criterion. Students are advised to familiarise themselves with the marking key as preparation for their performance in the examination.

A numerical scale is used to assess candidate performance in the practical (performance) examination. All candidates are examined against the following criteria.

Performance 1 – Original Solo Choreography

- Manipulation of movement
- Choreographic devices
- Choreographic structure
- Technique and skills applicable to the selected genre
- Performance qualities and presentation
- Alignment and placement of body
- Idea/stimulus

Performance 2 – Set Solo

- Technique and skills – execution and control of technique and skills
- Alignment and placement of body
- Artistic interpretation of choreographic intent
- Musicality
- Performance qualities and presentation

Performance 3 – Structured Improvisation

- Using stimulus to explore original movement
- Using choreographic devices in relation to the task
- Using choreographic structure in response to the task

6. Venues

All candidates are required to travel to the allocated venue. Venues for the Dance ATAR course practical (performance) examination will be located in the Perth metropolitan area and, if required, major country locations.

7. Country candidates travelling to Perth for examinations

Candidates from schools located less than 100 km from Perth are required to travel to the venue at their own expense.

Candidates from schools located more than 100 km from Perth:

- are not reimbursed for accommodation and/or meal costs
- must be accompanied by a chaperone approved by their school if required to stay overnight
- will be reimbursed for fuel up to \$400 (on production of receipts) where a candidate is close enough to drive (i.e. in the area south of Geraldton, west of Kalgoorlie and north of Albany)

- will have a flight (and accommodation if required) arranged and paid for by the Department of Education (the Department) when required to fly to Perth. Note: parents/schools who pay for airfares will not be reimbursed. When travelling by air, and the candidate is travelling alone, the candidate will be met by an employee from the Department and will have appropriate transport organised by the Authority.

8. Examination procedure

On the day of the practical (performance) examination, the candidate **must** bring a signed hard copy of their *Personalised practical (performance) examination timetable* (Appendix 1) to the examination as proof of enrolment. An image of their *Personalised practical (performance) examination timetable* on their mobile phone will **not** be accepted as proof of enrolment. Candidates must also present a form of a photographic identification; an image of the candidate's identification on a phone is acceptable.

If a candidate is found with any unauthorised materials during the examination, they will be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules Committee.

Candidates **must not** wear or carry anything that identifies them or any person, school, club, private dance school/academy or achievements. Any candidate who does not comply with these requirements will be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules Committee. The candidate is responsible for their personal belongings at all times.

Candidates must give their signed *Declaration of authenticity* to the supervisor upon arrival at the examination venue.

The candidate must report to a supervisor at the examination venue at their scheduled reporting time. The reporting time is 40 minutes before their scheduled examination time. Candidates who arrive 35 minutes or more after the scheduled reporting time will not be admitted to the practical (performance) examination and the examination cannot be rescheduled.

The scheduled examination time is the time at which the markers will invite the candidate into the examination room, as shown in the candidate's *Personalised practical (performance) examination timetable*.

Prior to the scheduled examination time, a supervisor takes the candidate to a warm-up area. There may be more than one candidate being supervised simultaneously in the warm-up area. The candidate's warm-up and focus activities at the examination venue must not interfere with the preparation or examination of others.

Candidates will be escorted by the supervisor to the examination room, where they sit outside until invited in by one of the markers.

The candidate must leave the examination area once they have completed their examination. The candidate must not have contact with candidates waiting to be examined, teachers or other parties who are seeking information about the examination until all the examinations have concluded. Any candidate who does not comply with these requirements will be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules Committee.

The candidate must bring the following items to the practical (performance) examination:

- a signed hardcopy of their *Personalised practical (performance) examination timetable* (Appendix 1)
- a signed *Declaration of authenticity* (Appendix 2)
- two copies of the *Statement explaining the idea/stimulus for Performance 1* (Appendix 3)
- the music recording for Performance 1 (downloaded and **not** streamed) on a laptop, mobile phone (in flight mode) or a USB drive (back-up) and speakers. The candidate must ensure there is a **10-second** period of silence recorded before their music commences, to allow time for the candidate to walk to the *start* position in the performance space. Candidates are to press play on their own device.
- a backup copy of the music recording (preferably on a USB drive) for Performance 1
- props – if they are a required part of Performance 1 (e.g. hat, cane, scarf, chair or stimulus item)
- a water bottle, towel and photographic ID.

9. Statement explaining the idea/stimulus

The purpose of the *Statement explaining the idea/stimulus* is to outline the idea/stimulus of the Original Solo Choreography. The statement is to be **no more than 50 words** and **must** be written or typed on the Authority's official form.

The candidate is to provide succinct information in the statement, which may include how artistic choices and key decisions relating to the idea/stimulus were made about the dance that will be performed. The candidate may include some diagrammatic information, but it is not necessary to describe the use of the spatial organisation or the movement vocabulary used. This statement is **not** assessed; however, the statement allows the markers to understand the context of the Original Solo Choreography.

The candidate must hand **two** copies of the *Statement explaining the idea/stimulus* to the markers upon entering the examination room. The *Statement explaining the idea/stimulus* **must** not display any identifying information such as names and is to be removed from any plastic folders before entering the examination room.

10. Attire

Candidates must wear appropriate dance attire to allow markers to see the full use of the body, be barefoot where appropriate (dancers' foot thongs/footundeez® are permitted in the examination) and have their hair tied back. Do **not** wear a costume.

Current fashion, street clothes, jewellery and inappropriate shoes, unless specifically part of the dance genre performed in Performance 1, often inhibit a candidate's capacity to complete the examination requirements and are to be avoided.

11. Equipment

The following items will be provided in the examination room for the candidate to use, if required:

- a sound system with an AUX cable for candidates to attach their mobile phone (in flight mode) and/or laptop
- power supply for candidates to set up their own sound equipment
- the music recording for Performance 2 – the Set Solo

- paper and pencil.

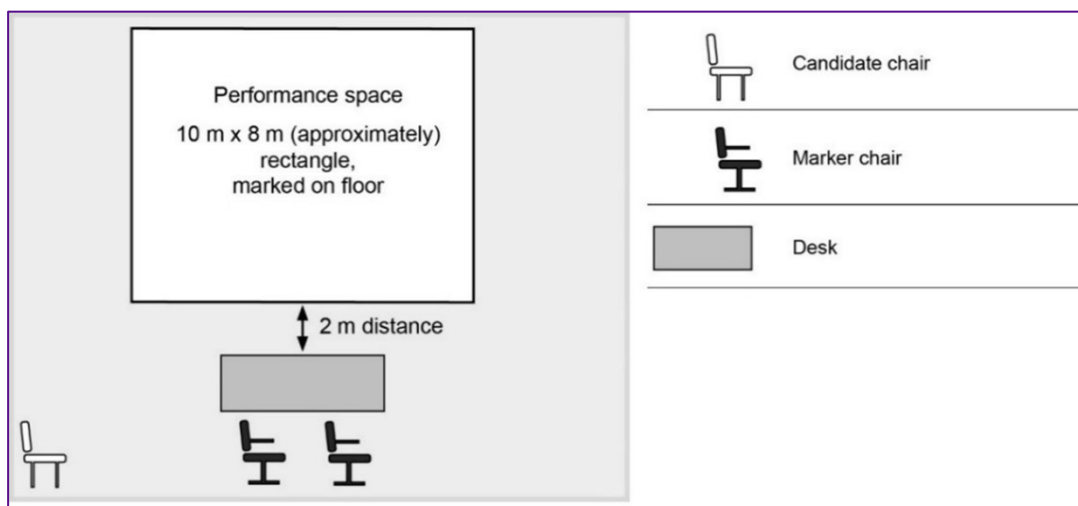
The candidate is not permitted to bring any scenery or use any projections in the performance. Props that dancers use or interact with during the performance to enhance the choreography (e.g. hat, cane, scarf, chair) may be brought in; however, the candidate is limited to what they alone can carry and set up in one minute.

12. Layout of the examination room

All examination rooms will be set up in a consistent manner in terms of sound equipment and the placement of the markers as shown in Figure 1 below. Any mirrors will be covered and the floor will be suitable for dance.

Candidates must not access unauthorised personal items during the examination and must ensure all mobile phones they bring into the examination are in flight mode. Candidates will be informed as to where they can place their water bottle and towel for access during the examination process.

Figure 1. Examination room layout



Note:

- Candidates are required to perform within the marked performance space.
- A small table with a sound system for the candidates to use for Performance 1 will be available in the room.
- There may be up to three markers in the room, with one marker not marking, but observing the marking process.

13. Safe and appropriate practice

It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that their performance is safe and that the examination space is left clean and clear for the next candidate.

Candidates will not be permitted to use any items made of glass or other breakable materials and must not use unsafe props, practice or materials (for example, no naked flames, guns, knives or other weapons, including replica weapons, sharp or dangerous materials, such as needles, broken mirror, broken glass or barbed wire).

Candidates are asked to carefully consider the props they use. Where there are reasonable grounds for the markers to feel that these safety guidelines have been breached, they will instruct the candidate to stop the performance, and the breach will be reported to the Chief Marker. The candidate can be removed from the marking process at the discretion of the Chief Marker. If candidates are unsure about the suitability of props, they must check with the markers on entering the examination room.

Nothing is to be used in the performance that can be spilled on the stage area. This includes liquids (such as water and juice), food, sand, glitter and the spraying of substances (e.g. aerosol cans). It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that their performance is safe and that the examination space is left clean and clear for the next candidate.

The candidate's performance must not be offensive, contain material deemed inappropriate (such as explicit violence, drug use, images of self-harm or materials containing sexual references that are not within the context of a Year 12 classroom and public examination process) or have content that may be objectionable to the audience (i.e. the markers). Candidates must not involve the markers in any confrontational or intimidating practice during the examination

While it is understood that a practical examination may challenge established views, it is important to consider and take into account the values of the audience and the accepted standards of the wider community, and in general within a Year 12 context.

Performances and submitted work that is deemed inappropriate may be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules Committee.

14. Structure of the practical (performance) examination

Examination	Duration
Performance 1 – Original Solo Choreography 40% of the practical (performance) examination	Preparation: 60 seconds Performance: 1.5–3 minutes
Performance 2 – Set Solo 40% of the practical (performance) examination	Preparation: 2 minutes Performance: 2–4 minutes
Performance 3 – Structured Improvisation 20% of the practical (performance) examination	Preparation: 7 minutes Performance: 30 seconds–2 minutes

The candidate is allowed 60 seconds from entering the room to the commencement of Performance 1 (Original Solo Choreography). This preparation time can include familiarisation with the space. The markers will inform the candidate of the time limit as they enter the room and will ask the candidate to declare any props. The candidate will set up their own device and tests that it works.

Performance 1: Original Solo Choreography

The candidate's performance will be stopped if it is still in progress after 3 minutes.

Transition between Performance 1 and 2

The candidate is allowed up to 2 minutes to prepare for Performance 2. This preparation time can include familiarisation with the space.

Performance 2: Set Solo

The candidate will perform the set solo.

Transition between Performance 2 and 3

The markers will provide a task for Performance 3 – Structured Improvisation. The candidate will have 7 minutes to prepare a structured improvisation, which is based on Performance 1 and/or Performance 2. During this time, the candidate will be provided with paper and pencils to use for planning, if required. Planning **must** take place in the marked performance space. Planning notes will be collected from the candidate but will not be included in the marking process.

Performance 3: Structured improvisation

The candidate's performance will be stopped if it is still in progress after 2 minutes.

15. Breach of examination rules

An alleged breach of examination rules will be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules Committee. Further information related to examination breaches can be found on the [Rules of conduct for Year 12 ATAR course examinations page \(https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/assessment/examinations/rules-of-conduct-for-atar-course-examinations\)](https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/assessment/examinations/rules-of-conduct-for-atar-course-examinations) on the Authority website and in Part II of the *Year 12 Information Handbook*, published in July.

A breach of one of these rules can result in cancellation of part or all of the practical raw examination mark.

16. Key dates

Thursday, 23 July 2026

Last date for withdrawal of enrolment from ATAR courses with a practical examination component

Wednesday, 29 July 2026

Last date for the Authority to receive completed application forms for alternative format ATAR course practical examinations

Tuesday, 8 September 2026

Personalised practical examination timetables can be downloaded by schools/providers via SIRS. Students can access their personalised practical examination timetables via the student portal

Saturday, 26 September to Sunday, 4 October 2026 (Saturdays, Sundays and the public holiday included)

Dance ATAR course practical (performance) examination

Appendix 1: Personalised practical (performance) examination timetable



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School Curriculum and Standards Authority



Personalised practical (performance) examination timetable 2026

Dance

WA student number:

X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
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Candidate: Name

School name: School

School code: xxxx

Examination details

Course: Dance

Date: Day, Date Month Year

Reporting time: 2:40 pm

Examination time: 3:20 pm

Venue: Venue
(Re-check on the day prior to the examination)

Reporting location: Reporting room

These examination details are final and no changes can be made.

Candidates, staff and visitors are required to comply with all venue specific requirements.

Candidates who are unwell must complete and submit a *Sickness/Misadventure Application Form*, with supporting evidence, to the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority). If you are a non-school candidate for this course, there is no option to apply for Sickness/Misadventure.

Candidates who arrive 35 minutes or more after the scheduled reporting time will not be admitted to the practical (performance) examination. The examination cannot be rescheduled. At the reporting time, candidates must submit a completed *Declaration of authenticity*. Any candidate who does not comply with these requirements, will be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules Committee.

Candidates **must not** wear or carry anything that identifies them or any person, school, club or achievements. Any candidate who does not comply with these requirements will be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules Committee.

Candidates are required to sign this timetable prior to the examination. This signed timetable must be shown to the supervisor, with photographic ID, when registering at the examination venue for the practical (performance) examination. Digital copies of your timetable, e.g. on a mobile telephone, are **not** permitted.

Candidates **must not** contact the venue about the examination arrangements. Any queries must be directed to the Authority on 9273 6377.

Signature Date

Emergency contact for candidates: Phone 0434 734 248

Google Maps QR code:



Google Maps link: <https://studentportal.scsa.wa.edu.au/>

Description: Venue and location information

Appendix 2: Declaration of authenticity



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ATAR course practical (performance/portfolio/production) examinations 2026 Declaration of authenticity

ATAR course: (circle one course)

DAN	DES	DRA	MDT	MPA	VAR	MUS (Composition Portfolio examination only)
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This form must be completed by candidates enrolled to sit an examination for the above courses only. Failure to submit a completed *Declaration of authenticity* could result in a referral to the Breach of Examination Rules Committee.

Candidate declaration

Name: _____ School code: _____

WA student number:

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As a candidate for the practical (performance/portfolio/production) examination, I declare that:

- I have completed all the work contained in this submission throughout the duration of the ATAR course being examined
- none of the work performed or submitted was worked on directly by a teacher or any other person or company except those acknowledged, if appropriate, in the references or acknowledgements section or form. This includes the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools
- none of the work in this examination was submitted for external assessment in any other ATAR course examination
- all documentation submitted is accurate
- I will submit this declaration in accordance with the instructions in the course practical examination requirements document.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Principal and teacher declarations

This section is to be signed by the school principal and the candidate's teacher.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge, the work performed or submitted:

- has been completed by the candidate throughout the duration of the ATAR course being examined
- has been developed mainly in school time, and any work away from school was regularly monitored by the teacher
- has not been worked on directly by a teacher or any other person or company and, if applicable, work has been formally referenced or acknowledged (including the use of generative artificial intelligence [AI] tools)
- has not been submitted for external assessment in any other course or program
- has been checked and meets the practical examination requirements, and a copy of this form has been kept as an official school record
- is in working order, i.e. appropriate USB drives, DVDs and CDs are formatted correctly.

	Teacher	Principal
Name		
Signature		
Date		

Appendix 3: Statement explaining the idea/stimulus for Performance 1



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Dance ATAR course practical (performance) examination 2026

Statement explaining the idea/stimulus for Performance 1

Instructions to candidate

The statement outlines the idea/stimulus of the Original solo choreography. Candidates must provide succinct information about the solo being presented, which may include artistic choices and any key decisions made regarding the use of choreographic devices and choreographic structure.

Candidates may include some diagrammatic information; however, it is not necessary to describe the use of spatial organisation or the movement vocabulary used. **The statement is not assessed**; however, the information presented in the statement is critical to how the Original solo choreography is viewed by the markers.

The statement is to be no more than **50 words** and must be word processed using 11-point Arial font.

The candidate must make **two** copies of the statement and hand a copy to each marker when they enter the examination room.

WA student number

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SAMPLE

Appendix 4: Practical (performance) examination checklist



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Dance practical (performance) examination checklist

This checklist is a support document for candidates and teachers and is not to be brought to the examination venue. The *Dance ATAR course practical (performance) examination requirements* document remains the primary source of examination guidelines.

Candidate to complete	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete all forms at school and make multiple copies.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Print, sign and date a hard copy of your <i>Personalised practical examination timetable</i> to take to the examination, together with photographic ID. Note: an image of the timetable on a phone will not be accepted.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bring photographic ID to the examination venue. Photographic ID on your phone is acceptable.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Report to a supervisor at the examination venue at the scheduled reporting time (40 minutes before the scheduled examination time).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bring your signed hard copy of the <i>Declaration of authenticity</i> , with a photographic ID for proof of identity, and two copies of the <i>Statement explaining the idea/stimulus for Performance 1</i> .
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do not wear or carry anything that identifies you or any person, school, club, private dance school/academy or achievements.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure the music recording for Performance 1: Original solo choreography is downloaded on a laptop and/or mobile phone (in flight mode) with speakers. Ensure that there is a 10-second period of silence recorded before your music commences, to allow time to walk to the starting position in the performance space. You are to press play on your own device.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bring a back-up USB drive with your music for Performance 1: Original solo choreography and ensure the digital format is correct for playing through a speaker.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wear appropriate dance attire to allow markers to see the full use of the body, be barefoot where appropriate (dancers' foot thongs/footUndeez® are permitted in the examination) and tie your hair back. Do not wear a costume.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bring a water bottle and towel.
Teacher to complete	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A <i>Declaration of authenticity</i> form has been completed for this candidate.

Note: if you do not have speakers, a sound system with an AUX cable is supplied in the examination room.