



SAMPLE ASSESSMENT TASKS

DANCE
ATAR YEAR 12

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.

Copyright

© School Curriculum and Standards Authority, 2026

This document – apart from any third-party copyright material contained in it – may be freely copied, or communicated on an intranet, for non-commercial purposes in educational institutions, provided that the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) is acknowledged as the copyright owner, and that the Authority's moral rights are not infringed.

Copying or communication for any other purpose can be done only within the terms of the *Copyright Act 1968* or with prior written permission of the Authority. Copying or communication of any third-party copyright material can be done only within the terms of the *Copyright Act 1968* or with permission of the copyright owners.

Any content in this document that has been derived from the Australian Curriculum may be used under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence](#).

Disclaimer

Any resources such as texts, websites and so on that may be referred to in this document are provided as examples of resources that teachers can use to support their learning programs. Their inclusion does not imply that they are mandatory or that they are the only resources relevant to the course. Teachers must exercise their professional judgement as to the appropriateness of any they may wish to use.

Sample assessment task

Dance – ATAR Year 12

Task 2

Assessment type	Performance/production
Conditions	Time allowed for the task: approximately 13 periods Practical assessment through performance in Semester 2, Week 12
Task weighting	5% of the school mark for this pair of units

Application of technique and skills – contemporary dance (41 marks)

As a class, you will learn a contemporary dance work, applying the contemporary technique you learnt in Unit 3. The classwork will be assessed at *[insert details of scheduled performance]*.

Task description

- You will participate in a class each week learning a contemporary dance work.
- Technique you will practise in class includes:
 - elevation
 - floor work
 - standing work
 - travelling
 - turning.
- You will apply technique in rehearsal and prepare choreography for a performance.
- You will perform the choreography for assessment in Semester 2, Week 12.

Assessment criteria

- Application of contemporary technique in performance – 4 marks per skill (24 marks)
 - quality of line
 - breadth of movement
 - transfer of weight
 - use of gravity
 - capacity to move in and out of the floor
 - control
- Interpretation of choreographic intent (4 marks)
- Musicality (rhythmic accuracy, use of musical contrasts, embodiment of music) (3 marks)
- Demonstration of performance qualities (commitment, confidence, engagement, expression, focus, projection) (6 marks)
- Application of safe dance and alignment (4 marks)

Marking key for sample assessment task 2

Group choreography

(41 marks)

Description				Marks
Application of contemporary technique in performance				
	Minimal application (1)	Inconsistent application (2)	Minor inconsistencies, competent (3)	Consistent and highly competent (4)
Quality of line				
Breadth of movement				
Transfer of weight				
Use of gravity				
Capacity to move in and out of the floor				
Control				
Subtotal				/24
Interpretation of choreographic intent				
Performs a considered artistic interpretation of the contemporary dance that captures the choreographic nuances and intent				4
Performs a sound artistic interpretation of the contemporary dance that captures the choreographic nuances and intent				3
Performs a simple artistic interpretation of the contemporary dance with some connection to the choreographic nuances and intent				2
Performs a limited artistic interpretation of the contemporary dance with limited connection to the choreographic nuances and intent				1
Subtotal				/4
Musicality (rhythmic accuracy, use of musical contrasts, embodiment of the choreography)				
Demonstrates a strong sense of rhythmic accuracy, and clearly and consistently embodies the music through the choreography. Sustains accurate timing				3
Demonstrates some rhythmic accuracy and/or embodies the music through the choreography. Shows minor inconsistencies with timing of specific movements within the dance				2
Demonstrates minimal rhythmic accuracy, limited musicality, and incorrect timing of movements within the dance				1
Subtotal				/3

Description	Marks
Demonstration of performance qualities (commitment, confidence, engagement, expression, focus, projection)	
Demonstrates skilled performance qualities throughout the choreography. Performance is committed, confident, expressive and focused, showing engagement and projection	6
Demonstrates sound performance qualities throughout the choreography. Performance is mostly committed, confident, expressive and focused, but engagement and projection are inconsistent	5
Demonstrates some performance qualities throughout the choreography. Performance may lack confidence, commitment, expression and focus. Engagement and projection are inconsistent	4
Demonstrates intermittent performance qualities throughout the choreography. Performance lacks confidence, commitment and focus in some sections. Shows little engagement and projection	3
Demonstrates performance qualities in some sections of the choreography. Performance in some sections lacks confidence, commitment and focus	2
Demonstrates a performance that lacks confidence with limited commitment and focus throughout the choreography. Shows movements that are largely marked rather than fully performed	1
Subtotal	/6
Application of safe dance and alignment	
Applies safe dance practices consistently. Demonstrates good use of alignment principles	4
Applies safe dance practices most of the time. Demonstrates good use of alignment principles most of the time	3
Applies safe dance practices inconsistently. Demonstrates some use of alignment principles	2
Applies limited safe dance practices or demonstrates little use of alignment principles	1
Subtotal	/4
Total	/41

Sample assessment task

Dance – ATAR Year 12

Task 6

Assessment type	Response
Conditions	Time allowed for the task: 1 period of approximately 50 minutes In-class timed response: Semester 2, Week 7
Task weighting	12.5% of the school mark for this pair of units

Case study – innovation in dance

(24 marks)

You are to complete an in-class timed response after a series of lessons investigating the functions and contexts of dance within the focus of innovation in dance. The question will relate to how a dance company/choreographer has been innovative in dance.

Task description

As a class, you will research:

- how dance has evolved over time through innovation
- current innovations in dance.

You will continue to research a dance company/choreographer and examples of their works.

You must consider:

- background information
 - who?
 - what?
 - why?
 - where?
 - when?
 - how?
- choreographic intent
- elements of dance
- choreographic devices
- choreographic structures
- design concepts
- historical, cultural and social context
- contribution to dance as an artform.

Organise your research notes in preparation for the in-class assessment.

Assessment criteria

You will be assessed on your ability to explain, discuss and evaluate a range of contextual factors, including:

- contribution to dance as an artform
- historical background information
- historical, cultural and social context
- related and relevant dance works – choreographic devices, choreographic intent, choreographic structures, design concepts and elements of dance.

You will respond to an unseen question for an in-class response. With reference to **one** choreographer or dance company and **one** of their works:

- explain the structure of the dance work (4 marks)
- explain the significance of the dance work to the choreographer/dance company (4 marks)
- discuss how historical context has influenced the work to be innovative with reference to:
 - movement choices (5 marks)
 - **one** design concept (5 marks)
- evaluate the contribution of the choreographer/dance company to dance as an artform. (6 marks)

Marking key for sample assessment task 6

Case study – innovation in dance

(24 marks)

Description	Marks
Explain the structure of the dance work	
Explains the choreographic structure of the dance work	4
Describes the choreographic structure of the dance work	3
Outlines the choreographic structure of the dance work	2
Makes general comments about the choreographic structure of the dance work	1
Subtotal	/4
Explain the significance of the dance work to the choreographer/dance company	
Explains the significance of the dance work to the choreographer/dance company	4
Describes the significance of the dance work to the choreographer/dance company	3
Outlines the significance of the dance work to the choreographer/dance company	2
Makes general comments about the significance of the dance work to the choreographer/dance company	1
Subtotal	/4
Discuss how historical context has influenced movement choices in the dance work	
Discusses how historical context has influenced movement choices in the dance work	5
Explains how historical context has influenced movement choices in the dance work	4
Describes how historical context has influenced movement choices in the dance work	3
Outlines how historical context has influenced movement choices in the dance work	2
Makes general comments about movement choices in the dance work	1
Subtotal	/5
Discuss how historical context has influenced one design concept in the dance work	
Discusses how historical context has influenced one design concept in the dance work	5
Explains how historical context has influenced one design concept in the dance work	4
Describes how historical context has influenced one design concept in the dance work	3
Outlines how historical context has influenced one design concept in the dance work	2
Makes general comments about one design concept in the dance work	1
Subtotal	/5
Evaluate the contribution of the choreographer/dance company to dance as an artform	
Evaluates the contribution of the choreographer/dance company to dance as an artform and uses dance terminology and language effectively	6
Discusses the contribution of the choreographer/dance company to dance as an artform and uses appropriate dance terminology and language	5
Explains the contribution of the choreographer/dance company to dance as an artform and uses some appropriate dance terminology and language	4
Describes the contribution of the choreographer/dance company to dance as an artform and uses some dance terminology and language	3
Outlines the contribution of the choreographer/dance company to dance as an artform and uses some dance terminology	2
Makes general comments about the contribution of the choreographer/dance company to dance	1
Subtotal	/6
Total	/24