

GCSE Dance notes and guidance: Component 1 (2022 only)

Because of the ongoing impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, there are some changes to how GCSE Dance will be assessed in 2022.

These changes are for 2022 only and so for those entered in 2023, you should continue to deliver the specification as it is.

The adapted 'solo performance assessment grid' (set phrase) is available on [Centre Services](#) so that it can be used to assess a single set phrase (instead of two).

The adapted 'duet/trio performance assessment grid' is available on [Centre Services](#) so that it can also be used to assess solo performances.

The assessment grid for choreography is unchanged and can be found in the specification.

Clarification of minimum and maximum timings for Performance

The requirement for Performance is two dances: one set phrase performance which is 30 seconds and a second performance piece – either a solo, duet or trio.

The NEA requirements for 2022 offer a reduction in the minimum time requirements for the solo/duet/trio performance task. There are no other changes to the task.

You can submit a mix of solo and duet/trio performance tasks across a cohort.

The minimum duration for one set phrase and a solo performance under the NEA requirements for 2022 is one and a half minutes.

If teachers decide that the solo route is the best option, then to comply with the requirements, it is essential that they choreograph a solo that meets the minimum time duration of one minute. The new NEA requirements reduce pressure on teachers and students and it's possible to submit a solo performance for 2022 which meets this new minimum time. Exemplification of this can be found on Teacher Online Standardisation (T-OLS) which is available in [Centre Services](#).

For the solo performance task, there is no maximum time limit. This option did not exist previously, so students only need to meet the minimum time requirement of one minute. It's entirely your choice if you wish to submit a solo performance that is longer than the specified minimum duration.

The minimum duration for one set phrase and a duet/trio performance under the NEA requirements for 2022 is two minutes. The maximum time of five minutes for the duet/trio performance still remains. However, it is worth considering as a centre the length of the performance task you set, as you have been offered a reduction in timings.

The minimum time penalty will apply as normal to the new minimum time requirements. The size of the reduction is proportionate to the severity of the timing infringement, starting with 5% of the total available raw mark for work.

There is no penalty for work that meets or exceeds the minimum time duration.

Clarification of minimum and maximum timings for Choreography

The requirement for Choreography is the creation of either a complete solo dance of at least one and a half minutes to two and a half minutes in duration or a complete group dance of at least two to three and a half minutes in duration.

For clarification, the maximum time durations are stated on the choreography paper and have not changed. However, the reduction in the minimum time has been introduced to lessen the pressure on teachers and students.

The minimum time penalty will apply as normal to the new minimum time requirements. The size of the reduction is proportionate to the severity of the timing infringement, starting with 5% of the total available raw mark for work.

There is no penalty for work that meets or exceeds the minimum time duration.

Developing set phrase material for the performance task

For the 2022 series, the submission of one set phrase does not mean that centres should use all three of the remaining set phrases as material for the performance task. The performance task should be developed from the action, dynamic and spatial elements of **two** of the remaining three set phrases. The requirement to use material from two set phrases as set out in the specification has not changed and teachers should state on the Candidate Record Form which two phrases they have used.

Working with students who are not allowed to dance in close proximity

The statement on the revised mark scheme for 2022 (available on [Centre Services](#)) makes it clear that any socially distanced work may not allow students to access all of the assessment criteria. The mark scheme that will be applied to submitted work has not been adapted to assess a socially distanced piece.

It is important when submitting a duet/trio performance that teachers include a wide range of dance relationships within the work, otherwise students cannot evidence knowledge and understanding of these during performance. If the parameters you are working in means that you cannot do this, then there is the option of a solo performance piece, which is an alternative for those who do not wish to, or are not allowed to work in close proximity or in contact with other dancers.

If a teacher decides to devise a performance task which is essentially two solos performed at the same time, they'll need to decide whether the work still offers sufficient opportunities for their students to demonstrate sensitivity to other dancers.

Working with students who are reluctant to perform using contact

During the current Covid-19 climate and for the 2022 series, centres should refer to their own health and safety guidelines regarding working in groups and the use of contact. Every centre is different in terms of their policy as they have different situations and guidance from their Senior Leadership Team. We have not removed contact as a dance relationship from the assessment criteria for the duet/trio performances, so contact can still be used where schools are permitting this. The use of contact does offer opportunities for interaction between dancers and teachers will need to decide whether the performance work they devise without the use of contact offers sufficient opportunities for students to demonstrate awareness of and connection to other dancers.

Working with students who are reluctant to use contact within their group choreography

We have not removed contact as a dance relationship from the assessment criteria for choreography so contact can still be used where schools are permitting this. It is important when creating their group choreography that students include a wide range of dance relationships within the work, otherwise they cannot evidence knowledge and understanding of how relationship content is used to realise the choreographic intent. If the parameters you are working in means that your students cannot do this then there is the option of a solo choreography, which is an alternative for those who do not wish to or are not allowed to work in close proximity or in contact with other dancers.

Working with students who have two set phrases ready for assessment

The requirement for 2022 will be the performance of **one** set phrase and either a solo, duet or trio performance. Teachers will need to use their professional judgement to decide which set phrase they feel reflects their students' best performance.

Dealing with disruption to assessment schedules

If a student is absent on the day of assessment due to illness, then you can reschedule the date for this student and you are not required to reschedule the assessment for the whole cohort. If the timing of the illness/absence means that the student's work cannot be assessed and marks cannot be submitted by the mark submission date of the 7 May 2022, then the centre can apply for special consideration for that student.

Please contact SpecialConsiderationQueries@aqa.org.uk if you need further guidance on any particular case.

Working with students who, due to Covid-19, are not allowed to dance in bare feet

During the current Covid-19 climate and for the 2022 series, teachers should refer to their own centre's health and safety guidelines regarding working in bare feet in their particular setting. Every centre is different in terms of their policy as they have different situations and different floor coverings.

Students can wear appropriate dance footwear to perform the set phrase and/or the solo/duet/trio performance, provided that the use of the chosen footwear does not compromise the health and safety aspects of the performance.

In terms of ballet shoes, jazz shoes or foot thongs, consideration should be given to safe working practices (during performance) and the type of floor covering you are working on.

Filming work

In the current climate, we advise you to film work throughout the course for all of your students, which can then be used as evidence should the moderation process be cancelled and centres are required to produce Teacher Assessed Grades.

However, please be aware that the audio-visual evidence that you submit for moderation for the 2022 series must be recorded in the year of certification. Further information is outlined in section 4.2 of [the specification](#).

Component 1 – Performance and Choreography: Marking advice and guidance for 2022

Please note this guidance reflects the Ofqual changes for 2022 and should **only** be used to assess work for the 2022 series.

Application of marks for work that does not meet the specification requirements

Assessment task 1: Performance

Task	Circumstance	Action
Set phrase	The student does not evidence a set phrase performance.	Mark 0 for the set phrase. Mark 0 for mental skills. Award a mark for solo/duet/trio performance if it is attempted.
Set phrase	The student does not perform as a soloist or is being prompted by someone or something off camera.	Mark 0 for the set phrase. Mark 0 for mental skills. Award a mark for solo/duet/trio performance if it is attempted.
Solo/duet/trio	The student does not evidence a solo/duet/trio performance.	Mark 0 for solo/duet/trio. Mark 0 for mental skills. Award a mark for the set phrase if it is attempted.
Set phrase and solo performance	The student does not meet the combined minimum time requirement of one and a half minutes.	Mark all work as normal and record the time on the Duration Declaration Form.
Set phrase and duet/trio performance	The student does not meet the combined minimum time requirement of two minutes .	Mark all work as normal and record the time on the Duration Declaration Form.

Assessment task 2: Choreography

Task	Circumstance	Action
Choreography	The student does not evidence a choreography.	Mark 0 for choreography.
Choreography	The student's solo choreography does not meet the minimum time requirement of one minute thirty seconds.	Mark all work as normal and record the time on the Duration Declaration Form.
Choreography	The student's group choreography does not meet the minimum time requirement of two minutes.	Mark all work as normal and record the time on the Duration Declaration Form.

Every centre must complete a Duration Declaration Form which will be made available on our website.

Help and support

Please contact your NEA adviser for further support on conducting the NEA.

If you don't know who your NEA adviser is, your exams officer will have these details, or you can contact us at agadance@aqa.org.uk