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# Specification

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**Performance Awards**

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**Entry – Level 4**

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*Qualifications regulated in England and Wales*

This specification is valid from April 2023 to January 2027 – Version 1

bbodance<sup>1</sup> (formally the British Ballet Organization) was established in 1930 to improve standards of dance teaching. Our mission is to inspire excellence and promote the education, training and enjoyment of dance. We are an inclusive, innovative and dynamic organisation which supports its members through a lifelong partnership.

bbodance is accredited by the Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre (CDMT) and offers Performing Arts Graded Examinations in Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Modern, Musical Theatre and Contemporary. Recognised under the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF), these Examinations are regulated by Ofqual and Qualifications Wales. The Examinations are delivered both nationally and internationally. The bbodance Performance Awards sit alongside the Graded Examinations, using excerpts of the same syllabi. However, the purpose of these Awards is to give Candidates the opportunity to undertake an Examination, even if the full assessment criteria of a Graded Examination cannot be met. bbodance Performance Awards are designed to be a level of attainment for students who enjoy their dance but do not wish to undergo the demands and commitment needed for Graded or Vocational examinations. The Performance Award gives the students the opportunity to attain an acceptable level of success within an approved bbodance standardisation, with continual access to the Graded Levels.

A Teacher may suggest these Awards if a Candidate would benefit from a 'stepping stone' between Graded Examinations, if a Candidate does not have the time to train for the requirements of a Graded Examination, if a Candidate has a disability / long term illness which impacts their training and ability to complete a Graded Examination, or if a Candidate wishes to continue to take Examinations and remain in the same class as peers, without the pressure of a Graded Examination. This is not an exhaustive list, bbodance support Teachers and Candidates with multiple training and Examination options, so that the best route for the Candidate can be provided.

This Specification sets out the aims, objectives, assessment criteria and content for the named qualification/s. Detailed genre specific syllabi can be found on the website, along with the Exercises which must be shown for the Performance Awards and can be downloaded for free (bbodance Registered Teachers and Associate Members only) or purchased from our online shop.

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<sup>1</sup> bbodance is a trading name for The British Ballet Organization Ltd., a Charity registered in England (No. 277177) and a Company Limited by Guarantee (No. 1402656).

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# 1. Summary, Objectives, Aims and Philosophy

Qualification Title	Classical Ballet	Tap	Jazz	Modern	Musical Theatre
Pre-Primary Performance Award	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Primary Performance Award	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grade 1 Performance Award	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grade 2 Performance Award	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grade 3 Performance Award	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grade 4 Performance Award	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grade 5 Performance Award	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grade 6 Performance Award	✓	✓	X	X	X
Grade 7 Performance Award	✓	✓	X	X	X
Grade 8 Performance Award	✓	✓	X	X	X
Intermediate Foundation Performance Award	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Intermediate Performance Award	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Advanced 1 Performance Award	✓	✓	X	✓	X
Advanced 2 Performance Award	X	✓	X	X	X

## Summary

The Performance Awards are aligned to the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) however they are not Regulated Examinations. These Examinations are offered in a range of genres and are available to any Candidate, with or without previous dance experience. Successful Candidates receive a Performance Award in the Grade undertaken.

Candidates may choose to do one or more Performance Awards in various genres.

The same examination and quality assurance procedures apply for Performance Awards as for the Graded and Vocational Examinations.

## Objectives

The objectives of the Performance Awards are to:

- provide access to nationally recognised Examinations in Dance
- provide a broad education in and through dance which is accessible for all children, young people and adults, with or without prior dance experience
- contribute to the development of a wide range of competencies and life skills, such as motor control, health and safety awareness, self-expression, physical fitness and stamina, discipline, mental ability and confidence
- provide a marker of success for all children, young people and adults, and support further learning and development

## Aims

The aims of the Performance Awards are to:

- promote the study of dance as a leisure and/or vocational activity
- promote and encourage enjoyment of dance as a form of physical exercise
- encourage personal self-confidence and group awareness through the experience of dancing with partners or in small groups
- motivate students by providing a series of clearly defined goals which have been structured to reflect the principles of safe dance practice
- provide Teachers with a means by which to develop and monitor the individual progress of their students
- reward achievement and motivate further learning.

## Fitness for Purpose

A qualification will only be fit for purpose if it secures the requirements of:

- validity
- reliability
- comparability
- manageability
- minimising bias

bbodance aims to meet these requirements through a rigorous internal Quality Assurance Framework which includes:

- identifying and mitigating conflicts of interest in the delivery of Examinations
- adopting policies and procedures which encourage access to Examinations, minimise or remove barriers, and treat all students and Candidates without bias
- providing initial Examiner training which includes seminars, 'shadowing' existing Examiners and a mentoring support scheme
- providing on-going training for Examiners and monitoring their work through annual seminars, moderation and standardisation exercises
- undertaking regular reviews of syllabus content, Examination procedures and marking methodologies in order to meet regulatory requirements and the needs of Examination 'users'
- undertaking statistical analysis of marks and adjustment where appropriate
- monitoring the use of Reasonable Adjustment and Special Consideration procedures and sharing best practice with other dance Awarding Organisations
- maintaining an appropriately skilled, competent and dedicated team of staff to design, deliver and quality assure dance Examinations.

## Entry Criteria

No previous dance qualifications are necessary in order to enter for any of the Performance Awards.

Performance Awards are open to Candidates of any age. The following minimum ages are recommended by the organisation for safe completion of Examinations and are for guidance only.

Qualification Title	Recommended Minimum Age
Pre-Primary Performance Award	5 years
Primary Performance Award	6 years
Grade 1 Performance Award	7 years
Grade 2 Performance Award	8 years
Grade 3 Performance Award	9 years
Grade 4 Performance Award	10 years
Grade 5 Performance Award	12 years
Grade 6 Performance Award	14 years
Grade 7 Performance Award	15 years
Grade 8 Performance Award	16 years
Intermediate Foundation Performance Award	12 years
Intermediate Performance Award	14 years
Advanced 1 Performance Award	16 years
Advanced 2 Performance Award	16 years

## 2. Qualification Descriptor and Assessment

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### Performance Award Descriptor

Candidates who have successfully completed a Performance Award will have demonstrated sufficient levels of technical, performance and musical understanding of the exercises they have presented. This progressively increases in line with the bbodance Graded and Vocationally Graded Examinations. However, due to the less demanding nature of a Performance Award, Candidates have an opportunity to performance key vocabulary required for a given genre and grade.

### Performance Award Assessment

bbodance's Performance Awards are made up of small components of the bbodance Graded and Vocationally Graded Syllabus.

In the Examinations Candidates will be assessed on their ability to:

- perform a series of prepared exercises in their chosen genre with a basic level of technical proficiency in relation to posture, weight placement, transference of weight, co-ordination of the whole body, control, line, spatial awareness and dynamic values
- dance, throughout the Examination, in time to the music and show responsiveness to the music
- dance with expression and performance quality

Candidates are required to communicate an element of confidence and autonomy in their performance

## 3. Syllabus Content

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A detailed Grade and genre-specific syllabus requirement for each Performance Award can be found on the website and can be downloaded for free (bbodance Registered Teachers and Associate Members only) or purchased from our online shop.

Candidates will be examined through the performance of the prescribed Examination Content as set out in the genre-specific Performance Award requirement document. The Examination is practical in nature.

bbodance upholds the rights of Candidates to be examined in their preferred gender identity. The majority of bbodance syllabi are gender neutral, however, where options have been presented based upon gender, the Candidate has the option to self-identify.



## 4. Duration of Examinations

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All Genres

Number of Candidates		
Performance Awards	1-2	3-4
Pre-Primary and Primary	15 minutes	20 minutes
Grade 1 - 3	15 minutes	20 minutes
Grade 4 - 5	20 minutes	30 minutes
Grade 6 - 8	30 minutes	40 minutes
Intermediate Foundation, Intermediate, Advanced 1 and 2	30 minutes	40 minutes

## 5. Achievements

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Upon successfully passing their examination, candidates will receive a report card and certificate.

### Achievement Categories

Category of Achievement
Standard Not Yet Achieved (SNYA)
Pass (P)
Merit (M)
Distinction (D)
Distinction* (D*)

# Achievement Descriptors

## Distinction \*

An excellent performance of the examined dance material, with some outstanding achievement in technique, musicality and performance quality. Candidates demonstrate an exceptional degree of technical control and spatial awareness with assured musical phrasing throughout. Artistic interpretation is outstanding and Candidates demonstrate a distinctive personal style and sense of performance. Overall, Candidates in this category surpass all expectations for the level.

## Distinction

A very good performance of the examined dance material which may include excellent achievement against some of the assessment criteria. Candidates demonstrate a very high level of technical control overall, with confident musicality and clear artistic engagement. Musical phrasing, interpretation and sense of performance are assured but without the confidence and originality of the Distinction\* Candidate.

## Merit

A good performance of the examined dance material with clear evidence of the appropriate knowledge and skills for the level. Some aspects of technique may require fuller development but the level of control is good overall. Musicality is clearly evident but may not always be sustained in more complex dance sequences. Artistic engagement and a sense of performance may also be less assured but overall, the work is commendable.

## Pass

An acceptable or adequate performance of the examined dance material with sufficient evidence of the appropriate knowledge and skills for the level. Control of technique with some inconsistencies across the full range of examined work. Some areas of the work examined show limited ability but overall the learning outcomes for the level have been met.

## Standard Not Yet Achieved

A limited performance of the examined dance material with insufficient evidence of the knowledge and skills required for the level. Technical clarity and control are not yet achieved. Musical awareness is not clearly demonstrated and there is a lack of performance style. Whilst there may be some potential ability, the learning outcomes have not been met; further study is required.

## 6. Uniform

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Recommended uniform for each genre is detailed in the bbodance Teachers' Handbook.

For all Examinations no jewellery or watches should be worn. Hair should be securely tied off the face and neck in an appropriate hairstyle for the genre. All Candidates in each Examination set should have the same uniform.

We encourage Examination Candidates to wear bbodance approved uniform because it is fit for purpose, ensuring the health and safety of Candidates and allowing freedom of movement. Approved uniform is supplied by Dansez and is available to purchase via <https://dans-ez.com/collections/bbodance>.

The bbodance approved uniform has been designed so that items can be mixed and matched across genres.

## 7. Teaching Resources

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The following resources are available for Teachers entering Candidates for Performance Awards

- Specification
- Performance Awards Criteria documents
- Syllabus Transcript
- Syllabus Film (where available)
- Teachers' Handbook
- Continuing Professional Development offered throughout the year by bbodance

These resources are available on the website and can be downloaded for free (bbodance Registered Teachers and Associate Members only) or the syllabi transcript can be purchased from our online shop.