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# Specification

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## Senior Grade Tap Award

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### Level 3

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*Qualifications regulated in England and Wales*

This specification is valid from April 2024 to January 2028 – 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 AcroDancer. 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. This Award is non-regulated however follows all of the quality assurance mechanisms of the rest of the bbodance qualification offering.

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 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

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## Summary

### Senior Grade Award: Tap

This Award has been designed for Candidates who have a desire to continue their Tap qualifications, after completion of the Graded Examinations 1 – 8. While there is no prerequisite for this qualification, considerable experience at / or in line with level 3 is recommended.

## Objectives

The objectives of the Senior Grade Tap Award

- provide access to nationally recognised Examinations in Dance
- 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 Candidates, and support further learning and development

## Aims

The aims of the Senior Grade Tap Award is to:

- promote the study of dance as a leisure and/or vocational activity
- provide a means of measuring the acquisition of technical, musical and dance performance skills
- promote and encourage enjoyment of dance as a form of physical exercise
- provide all Candidates with an opportunity of experiencing dance accompanied by live or recorded music
- encourage personal self-confidence and group awareness through the experience of dancing solo, with partners and in small groups
- aid the development of a general appreciation of music through dancing to various musical styles and rhythmic patterns
- 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 the Senior Grade Award: Tap

The Senior Grade Tap Award is open to Candidates of any age, although bbodance recommends that Candidates should be aged 16+.

For students who wish to undertake an Examination at an earlier age, we offer Level 2 and Level 3 Awards and Certificates in Dance for which bbodance recommends that Candidates should be aged 10 or above.

## 2. Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

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**Learning outcomes** describe in broad terms what a Candidate should know, understand or be able to demonstrate during the Examination. Each bbodance Examination is underpinned by a set of learning outcomes which are appropriate for the level of the award.

**Assessment criteria** specify the standard a Candidate is expected to meet in order to demonstrate that the learning outcomes have been achieved. Each bbodance Examination is marked according to a series of assessment criteria which reflect the level of the award.

### Level 3 Descriptor

Candidates who have successfully completed a Level 3 qualification will have demonstrated an appropriate range of dance vocabulary with a secure technical foundation. They will be able to perform complex movements with a clear and sustained sense of co-ordination and alignment. Their musicality is sound and forms part of a clearly discernible sense of performance which includes some aspects of individuality.

# Senior Grade Award Examination Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Learning Outcomes: the Candidate will;	Assessment Criteria: the Candidate can;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>develop an assured range and depth of knowledge and understanding in dance, including complex nuances in style</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>demonstrate a broad range of dance vocabulary across choreographic styles</li> <li>demonstrate sustained technical accuracy with confidence</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>consolidate the range and nuance of their musicality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>demonstrate musicality and secure musical phrasing in learned sequences</li> <li>demonstrate contrasting musical and movement dynamics</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>synthesise practical and theoretical learning to perform complex and extended dance sequences with confidence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>demonstrate confidence as a performer with a clear sense of style</li> <li>demonstrate confidence in performing alone and with others</li> <li>perform with an element of individual interpretation and artistry</li> </ul>

# Senior Grade Tap Award Assessment

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

- perform a series of prepared dance exercises which require the ability to demonstrate secure posture, correct weight placement, 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, throughout the Examination, with expression and communication
- perform a set dance/dances which require the Candidate to demonstrate all of the above aspects of technique, music and performance.

In progressing through these Level 3 qualifications, Candidates are expected to demonstrate an increased vocabulary of steps, with an increasing awareness and mastery of dance technique. Candidates are expected to demonstrate knowledge of vocabulary as defined by the chosen syllabus content. An understanding of dance technique is reflected in the ability to co-ordinate movements to produce combinations of steps with appropriate quality of movement (i.e. precision and control), within the range of the Candidates' physical capacity.

Candidates are required to communicate an increasing confidence in performance. They should be able to interpret music and display a developing sensitivity to musical content and style. Candidates' performances should communicate a developing spatial awareness, an ability to work with others and responsiveness to an audience.

## 3. Syllabus Content

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A detailed genre-specific syllabus for each Examination 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 syllabi. 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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### Senior Grade Tap Award

Number of Candidates	Tap
1	30 minutes
2	30 minutes
3	45 minutes
4	45 minutes

## 5. Marks and Achievements

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### Overview of the Mark Scheme

The Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria detailed in Section 2 are differentiated across the Examination via three related assessment areas: technique, musicality and performance.

Technique, musicality and performance are assessed using a mark scheme which comprises a total of 100 marks, applied to the various elements as shown in the tables below.

Where genre-specific criteria differ, the mark scheme below denotes

### Senior Grade Tap Award

Examination Content	Marks
Clarity of Tapping	10
Co-ordination, Balance & Control	10
Footwork/Use of knees	10
Musicality – Dynamics and rhythm	10
Musicality – Timing and Phrasing	10
Performance Quality	10
Posture, Placing & Alignment	10
Spatial Awareness/Interpretation	10
Tapping Ability & Knowledge	10
Turns	10

## Mark Descriptors

Mark	Descriptor
1	The Candidate did not show the work required
2	Indicates an extremely limited ability to achieve
3	Indicates a limited ability to achieve
4	Indicates an acceptable ability to achieve
5	Indicates some good ability to achieve
6	Indicates a consistently good ability to achieve
7	Indicates a very good ability to achieve
8	Indicates an excellent ability to achieve
9	Indicates an outstanding ability to achieve
10	Indicates an exceptional ability to achieve

## Achievement Categories

Category of Achievement	Overall Mark
Standard Not Yet Achieved (SNYA)	0-39
Pass (P)	40-54
Merit (M)	55-69
Distinction (D)	70-84
Distinction* (D*)	85-100

# 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 Senior Grade Award:

- Specification
- 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.