
Specification

Adult Tap

Level 1 – 4

bbodance¹ (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.

The purpose of the Adult Tap Awards is to give adults or 'late starters' Candidates an Examination opportunity. bbodance Adult Tap 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 Adult Tap Award gives the students the opportunity to attain an acceptable level of success within an approved bbodance standardisation.

This Specification sets out the aims, objectives, assessment criteria and content for the named qualification/s. Detailed 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.

¹ 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).

Contents

1. Summary, Objectives, Aims and Philosophy	4
Summary	4
Objectives.....	4
Aims	4
Fitness for Purpose.....	5
Entry Criteria.....	6
2. Qualification Descriptor and Assessment.....	6
Performance Award Descriptor	6
Performance Award Assessment	6
3. Syllabus Content.....	6
4. Duration of Examinations	7
5. Achievements	8
Achievement Categories.....	8
Achievement Descriptors	9
6. Uniform	10
7. Teaching Resources	10

1. Summary, Objectives, Aims and Philosophy

Summary

These Examinations are available to any Candidate, with or without previous dance experience. Successful Candidates receive an Adult Tap Award in the Level undertaken.

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

Objectives

The objectives of the Adult Tap Awards are to:

- provide access to nationally recognised Examinations in Dance
- provide a broad education in and through dance which is accessible for all 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 adults, and support further learning and development

Aims

The aims of the Adult Tap 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 Adult Tap Awards.

Adult Tap Awards are open to Candidates of any age.

2. Qualification Descriptor and Assessment

Adult Tap Awards Descriptor

Candidates who have successfully completed an Adult Tap Award will have demonstrated sufficient levels of technical, performance and musical understanding of the exercises they have presented. This progressively increases from Level 1 to 4.

Adult Tap Award Assessment

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

- perform a series of prepared exercises 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

A detailed syllabus for each Adult Tap Level 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 syllabus. 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

Number of Candidates		
Adult Tap Award	1-2	3-4
Level 1	20 minutes	30 minutes
Level 2	20 minutes	30 minutes
Level 3	20 minutes	30 minutes
Level 4	20 minutes	30 minutes

5. Achievements

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

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

The following resources are available for Teachers entering Candidates for Adult Tap Awards

- 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.