



BENEFITS OF EXAMS

Why should children take dance exams? They learn all the work in class anyway, so what is the benefit of external verification for their hard work?

- **Sense of Achievement** - They get rewarded and have recognition of their hard work with reports, certificates and medals. The children put so much work in that they should have something to show for their efforts at the end of it.
- **Personal improvement / motivation** - Once the children know they have been entered for an exam, the effort and determination in class hits another level. The goal of achieving a higher grade or level of proficiency can inspire dancers to work harder in their training.
- **Structured Progress** – Dance exams provide a structured way for dancers to track their progress and see how far they have come in their training. This can help them set new goals and keep them motivated to continue learning and improving.
- **Teacher accountability** - Once your teacher knows everyone has been entered for an exam it is then their responsibility to make sure everybody passes and gets the best mark possible. They will go over all feedback to make sure all technique is fully understood, make sure all exercises are being performed accurately, and make sure every student in the class is ready. No-one can possibly get overlooked.
- **Confidence boost** – Dance exams can help build confidence by providing dancers with a sense of accomplishment. Knowing they have successfully demonstrated their abilities to an examiner can help dancers feel more confident in their abilities and ready to take on new challenges. Being used to exam pressure from a young age can help make exams less scary as you get older. Not only at school, but having the confidence to perform alone can help for talks, presentations and leading workshops in the working world too.
- **Professional development** – Many dance organisations offer dance exams as part of a professional development program. Passing dance exams can be a way for dancers to advance their careers and demonstrate their abilities to potential employers.



DIFFERENT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT

EXAM – In an exam students go in in small groups without the teacher (Pri & Gr 1 can still have a teacher present). They will demonstrate all exam exercises – some things 1 at a time, and will get a mark out of 100. Depending on their mark they will be awarded an overall grade. These are Unsuccessful (0-39), Pass (40-54), Merit (55-74) and Distinction (75 +)

PRESENTATION – In a presentation the teacher goes in with the students to give support and any help that is necessary. The teacher runs this type of assessment more like a class. This can be useful if your child is nervous about a more formal exam. In a presentation the teacher also has the option of omitting a few exercises. This can be useful if the students haven't had time to learn everything, or if perhaps some students have missed lots of classes due to illness etc. The presentation is exactly the same work as the exam, but doesn't have to be done 1 at a time – this is the teachers choice as they know your child well. The presentation marks are given in the same categories as the exam, but instead of a mark out of 100 they will be told if they are working towards the expected standard (WT), at the expected standard (ES) or working at greater depth than the expected standard (GD).

MEDAL TEST – The medal test is the least formal of our assessments. The work is primarily choreographed by the teacher (although they can use set exercises for the warm up if they wish). The students go into the assessment in groups of 8. Ideally without a teacher, but a teacher can be present if needed. They show a group warm up, and then they show a solo dance – choreographed by the teacher. The higher levels of medal tests also require a group dance that is choreographed by the students. The students get a written report for this, and will get feedback as a group on the warm up, and will get individual feedback on their solo.

All students receive a medal, report and certificate. The only exception would be if you were unsuccessful in an exam where you would only get the report. (Please note – you can't be unsuccessful in presentation classes or medal tests)

I hope this has helped you understand the TDSC assessment structure, and benefits for your child in taking an assessment. Our ethos at TDSC is to bring the joy of dance to all. It is super important to us that every child comes out of their exam happy, and you will find our examiners to be friendly and encouraging to help get the best out of your child.