



IDTA Exam Structure and Expectation

The following information is a guide to the exam process. We realise that this information may not be relevant if your child is young but it ensures that everybody understands the IDTA exam structure and system regardless of your child's level.

The IDTA is a worldwide organisation offering a comprehensive graded system in many dance genres. They promote and encourage excellence in all areas of teaching and learning, with the training of teachers a high priority and teaching examinations and continual professional development, an expected part of a teachers career.

We will only enter pupils for exams when we believe they are ready and will go into the exam confident, well prepared and reaching their potential and therefore making the exam itself a positive experience.

At Inspire, pupils can take exams in Ballet, Tap, Modern, Street dance and Theatre Craft. We start the exam journey from Age 4 when pupils prepare for their exam in class and enter the exam in small groups and are assisted in the exam by their class teacher. This is a wonderful start to the exam journey.

We then progress to higher grades and levels where pupils prepare in class and go in in small groups (street dance) or either 2s or 3s (ballet, tap, modern, theatre craft)

When considering a child for an exam the teacher will consider the following areas:

Physical: This includes technique, flexibility, strength, balance, control, co ordination and posture.

Knowledge of syllabus: They must know all the work confidently. The higher the grade, the more complex the sequences and the more work there is to learn and perfect.

Response: This is to free work given in the exam (Grade 4 +) and also 'Free expressive movement' in ballet grades Prep – Grade 5.

Musicality and Sense of Timing: Keeping good timing and showing a sense of musicality when performing.

Style and sense of performance: They need to be confident to perform and be able to show the required maturity of style expected.

All pupils are encouraged to understand the expectation of each level they study and a considerable amount of time is spent working on attitude to learning and consolidation of technique. Pupils could remain in a grade for more than two years. There is no rush to take exams and everyone develops, learns and is 'ready' at their own pace. We want ALL children to love dance, enjoy the exam process and be proud of their achievements.

Do we have to do exams? No you don't have to do exams, that is personal preference, and something we can discuss with you.