



Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing
Modern Theatre

Modern Theatre Class Exams

An introduction for teachers



Discover the flexibility and benefits of the ISTD Modern Theatre Class Examinations, designed to inspire and support your students' dance journey.

What are Class Exams?

Modern Theatre Class Exams provide an alternative, non-regulated structure to explore the syllabus in a supportive environment. These exams can be undertaken in your own studio and offer a stepping stone to the ISTD Graded Exams or act as a stand-alone training programme.

Why choose Class Exams?

Flexible options: Suitable for both recreational dancers and those on a progression pathway to ISTD Graded Exams.

Syllabus aligned: Exercises match the Graded Syllabus, allowing seamless integration into classes.

Personalised approach: Choose from Option A and Option B settings to highlight students' unique strengths.

Engaging music options: Use the set syllabus music or explore bespoke playlist suggestions for Class Exams 2–6.

Safe dance practice: Steps and skills are progressively built to ensure readiness for higher levels.

Key features

Content: Each Class Exam includes three sections with 9–10 exercises selected from the syllabus.

Class Exams 5 and 6 include a dance vocabulary sequence choreographed by the teacher to their own choice of music.

Teacher's role: Teachers deliver all exercises, along with a teacher's dance and bow in the final section.

Exam length: Ranges from 15 minutes (Class Exam 1) to 30 minutes (Class Exam 6).

Marking and reports: Every student receives an individual report, mark, attainment grade, and certificate.

Age range: Open to students aged 5+ (with a 60-day grace period) and with no upper age limit.



Teacher-friendly delivery

In-studio flexibility: Teachers deliver the Class Exams in a familiar setting, supporting students throughout.

Progression options: Students can take Class Exams in sequence or skip levels where appropriate.

Encouraging atmosphere: Teachers can repeat exercises as a group to ensure students feel confident and supported.

Additional options

Remote filming: Ideal for SEND students.

Exams can be filmed across three sections over an academic year.

Teachers 'bank' recordings of sections 1 and 2, which are submitted with the final section when students are ready.

This allows flexibility for students who need additional time to learn and embed material.

Music operation: Teachers can operate music or enlist a music operator for a smooth experience.

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Being able to teach the Class Exam content to all pupils and integrate it into a fuller programme for those who want more is a real bonus.



Practical details

Fees: Starting from £28.75 per candidate.

Clothing: Students may wear any suitable dancewear and footwear, including bare feet, split sole shoes, or foot thongs. Any colour is permitted.

Language: International teachers can deliver exams in the candidates' native language.

Identification: Students must wear a clearly visible number corresponding to the official timetable.

Exam day guidance

Introduction: Teachers should introduce students to the examiner (or to the camera for remote exams).

Spacing: Ensure students are spaced well, rotating lines regularly for visibility.

Performance: Avoid highlighting individual soloists in group dances. Teachers can include a bow at the end of the dance or perform it separately.

Discretion: Teachers should move discreetly in the studio without obstructing the examiner's view.

Repeats: Teachers may ask students to repeat exercises if needed, or live examiners can request this. However, repeated material must involve all students, not a single individual.

By incorporating Modern Theatre Class Exams into your teaching, you provide students with an opportunity to develop technique, artistry, and confidence in an inclusive and nurturing environment.

For more details and guidance, contact the ISTD or visit our website.

