



REPORT FOR TEACHERS FROM THE PANEL OF EXAMINERS 2012

This feedback is drawn from observations recorded in Examiners' Tour Reports throughout the world, and is presented here with some associated suggestions and advice.

1. General

1.1 Examiners have seen many candidates performing the Intermediate Foundation and Intermediate levels with much enthusiasm, and are now looking forward to seeing the new Grades 1 -3 in action throughout next year.

2. Secure Knowledge

2.1 Examiners often comment that they see candidates who appear to have an insecure knowledge of the work. In these situations results are compromised, as it is difficult for candidates to demonstrate the required levels of technique when trying to remember sequences throughout the examination.

2.2 A possible suggestion to help address this would be to rotate students for each exercise at the barre during rehearsals; this would give all students an opportunity of being at the front, and to realise whether they have been copying rather than taking responsibility for knowledge of the exercise. Similarly in the centre, we recommend that students are allowed to rehearse regularly at the front of the class, in order to gain confidence and assurance in the examination.

3. Performance Space

3.1 Use of Performance Space is an important element of assessment, especially for the Dances/Studies and Variations, when these are performed as a solo. Candidates should understand that the Examiner is sitting centre front; this will help them to find the centre easily. Candidates should be aware that there are key moments in each Dance, Study or Variation when they should be aligned with centre front.

3.2 A good example is *Pirouettes en dedans* in Intermediate Foundation and Intermediate. Candidates should run onto the imaginary stage in time with the music and position themselves in the centre for the beginning of the exercise. Examiners have reported that many candidates run well beyond the centre.

4. Entrance into the Examination Studio

4.1 At all levels the entrance to the examination is not marked. However, it is most helpful for both the Examiner and candidates if a positive atmosphere is created with a swift energetic run into the examination room and a cheery salutation.

5. Music

5.1 Most candidates generally dance in time with the music, but fewer manage to obtain a high mark for the music components, due to a lack of appropriate response to the music.

5.2 To help them achieve higher marks, candidates should be aware of the criteria used to mark the response to music. Examiners are looking for phrasing, dynamics and atmosphere.

6. Performance

6.1 Examiners report that candidates still tend to focus and perform to the Examiner rather than up and beyond to an imaginary, large audience.

7. Primary in Dance and new Grades 1–3: Groups of three

7.1 In sets of three, it is preferable if the teacher organises, prior to the examination day, which candidates are going to dance in a pair, and who will dance solo or with one of the candidates who has already danced.

7.2 This provides familiarity for the candidates and helps them to dance with more confidence. Take care if asking the same candidate to do all the extra dancing: this can compromise the energy levels of this candidate. Giving all candidates a chance to dance solo or have an extra turn with another partner is the best approach to this situation.

8. Primary in Dance: Transfer of Weight

8.1 The quality of movement required in this step still appears at times to be misunderstood. The quality of movement should be lyrical and the toes do not come off the floor: the same principle as a glissade. It is not an elevated step.

9. Intermediate Foundation and Intermediate: Révérence

9.1 The Révérence is performed by one candidate at a time. At the end of each Révérence, the Examiner will thank the candidate, giving the candidate an opportunity to respond to the Examiner and thank the pianist. The same procedure will follow for each candidate; after the last candidate has performed the students collect their things and leave the room. Candidates should not come back into the centre to perform another Révérence.