

IDTA level 3 Diploma for Dance Teaching Assistants Frequently Asked Questions

1. General questions about the qualification

a) Why has the IDTA developed a new qualification?

Following the development of the IDTA Level 4 Diploma for Dance Teachers, it was agreed that a qualification at level 3 should be developed which linked to this qualification, aimed at those wishing to assist in dance classes.

Now that IDTA offers a regulated qualification at Level 4, those wishing to progress to this level would be looking for a regulated qualification which linked to it but which also provided a regulated qualification in its own right.

As with the level 4, there is a need for IDTA to show that its teaching qualifications can be compared to those offered by other dance organisations so that candidates can see where their qualifications sit within the sector.

The qualification also builds on the good practice established with the current Pre-Associates requiring candidates to demonstrate a high standard of technique and syllabus knowledge alongside showing their knowledge and understanding of safe dance and their responsibilities as a dance teaching assistant.

b) Why is the qualification titled Level 3 Diploma for Dance Teaching Assistants?

This qualification will be regulated by Ofqual, Qualifications Wales and the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessments (CCEA) in Northern Ireland. This will be submitted to their Register of Qualifications. As such it has to be assigned a level and given a title that reflects its content.

As we are running the current Pre-Associate alongside the new qualification as an unregulated qualification for Ballroom, Latin, Classical Sequence and Freestyle learners we cannot call the new qualification a "Pre-Associate" as well as this would be a misrepresentation of IDTA qualifications and would confuse learners, tutors and the wider public.

c) Where will the qualification sit in the National Frameworks for qualifications?

The new Level 3 Diploma for Dance Teaching Assistants will be regulated by Ofqual and will be part of the national framework of regulated qualifications.

Level 3 is broadly equivalent to A level and BTEC National Diplomas. However this is not to say that the level 3 Diploma is the same as studying for one of these qualifications but that the expectations of skills, knowledge and understanding are similar.

National framework level	Example qualifications	
Entry 1, 2, 3		
1	Grades 1-3	GCSE grades D-G
2	Grades 4 and 5	Intermediate Foundation GCSE grades A*-C
3	Grades 6-8 GCE A level	Intermediate and Advanced Foundation Level 3 Diploma for Dance Teaching Assistants
4	Advanced 1 and 2 1 st year undergraduate degree	Level 4 Diploma in Dance Teaching
5	2 nd year undergraduate degree	
6	Honours degree (BA, BSc etc)	
7	Masters degree	
8	Doctorate (PhD)	

d) How was the qualification developed?

We have carried out research into similar qualifications that are currently regulated by Ofqual and those offered by other dance teaching organisations.

We also looked at the current Pre-Associates as we wanted to preserve the good practice and content that is currently within them.

We then looked at what we thought would be essential for a qualification in dance teaching. This was agreed to be:

- Safe dance
- Technique and syllabus knowledge
- Observation of teaching Practice

This was then presented to the Joint Quality Assurance Panel and Board of Directors for discussion and sign off at every stage in the development process.

e) How is it different from the current Pre-Associate?

The new qualification has a few differences from the current Pre-Associate.

Safe dance knowledge and understanding is now addressed through a portfolio, as well as being part of the examination. This means that candidates can clearly show their knowledge and understanding in this area.

Teaching observation logs are also part of the portfolio element of the examination.

The technique and syllabus knowledge covers most of the same areas of the current Pre-Associate. For Theatre genres, Pre-Associate 1 and 2 have been amalgamated and the key difference is that candidates will be asked to discuss a selection of syllabi rather than every syllabus.

f) How does it work for UK and International students?

International students have the option of doing either the current Pre-Associate or the new qualification.

For UK students there is a dual route proposed:

Theatre branch students can only do the new qualification from 1st January 2020. The requirements of the Theatre Pre-Associates are similar to those of the new Level 3 Diploma so it is expected that students taking the Level 3 Diploma should not have too many problems in meeting

the requirements of the new qualification as they already cover the majority of the requirements for the examination.

For Ballroom and Freestyle students the Level 3 Diploma contains a number of new elements therefore the Board of Directors wishes to offer both options alongside each other from 1st January 2020.

International students may do the Level 3 Diploma for Dance Teaching Assistants if they wish.

Please see the information on the website www.idta.co.uk to find out more about how to register for the qualification and the requirements. International students will need to provide written documentation for the portfolio in English.

g) What about those with the current Pre-Associate?

The current Pre-Associate is still a valid qualification. There will be no requirement for everyone to upgrade to a level 3 Diploma for Dance Teaching Assistants.

h) When will the Level 3 Diploma for Dance Teaching Assistants be available?

The new qualification will be available from 1st January 2020.

i) What if I have students who want to do the current Pre-Associate?

Ballroom candidates are still able to do the Pre-Associate qualification. Theatre candidates will be registered on the Level 3 Diploma for Dance Teaching Assistants from 1st January 2020.

j) What are the qualification requirements?

- Students need to be 16 to register for the qualification.
- There are no pre-requisites for the qualification.

k) Is one Level 3 Diploma equivalent to Pre-Associates in all eight core subjects?

The Level 3 Diploma is genre specific. Therefore any learner wishing to be awarded a level 3 Diploma for Dance Teaching Assistants in a different genre will have to take the examination for that genre.

l) What if I want to do an additional genre in the Level 3 Diploma?

If you wish to take a Level 3 Diploma in an additional genre, the workbook element can be banked or a new workbook can be submitted. You will state on the application form whether you wish to bank you existing workbook mark or if you will present a revised workbook.

The examination timings will then be revised accordingly as follows:

- If you have opted to bank your workbook, the examination timings will be 1 hour for Ballroom and Freestyle and 1 hour and 15 minutes for Theatre. The examiner will mark the technique and communication elements of the examination and send the report form to Head Office. Your workbook mark will be added to the report form at Head Office and an overall mark will be calculated from this.
- If you have opted to present a revised or new workbook, examination timings will run as normal (1 hour and 15 minutes for Ballroom and Freestyle and 1 hour and 30 minutes for Theatre) and the examiner will mark all elements and send the completed report form to Head Office.

m) Does the Level 3 qualification give the candidate any UCAS points?

No, not at this time (July 2019). We will be pursuing the option of adding the Level 3 Diploma to the UCAS tariff. This involves gaining support from Universities and other Higher Education organisations who ask UCAS to include it on the tariff.

2. Structure and content

a) What is the structure of the qualification?

The level 3 Diploma is an examination based qualification. It consists of the following elements:

- Safe practice workbook and 4 completed teaching observation logs which are presented to the examiner at the start of the examination.
- Examination covering technique in the chosen genre and discussion with the examiner.

b) What subjects is the Level 3 Diploma for Dance Teaching Assistants offered in?

The Level 3 Diploma is offered in the 8 core subjects.

Ballet, Tap, Modern Jazz, Theatre Craft, Ballroom, Latin, Classical Sequence and Freestyle

c) How does the qualification work?

The qualification is made up of two separate elements which are all assessed through a practical examination:

1. Workbook:

- **Safe dance workbook** focuses on safe dance practice, health and safety in dance and the roles and responsibilities of dance teaching assistants. Candidates complete the template workbook and respond to the questions within it. The template will be available to download from the IDTA website.
- **Observation of dance practice logs** record the candidate's observation of 4 dance teaching sessions. The template for the log will be available to download from the IDTA website.

The logs include information about:

- Genre
- Student ages
- Duration of class
- Type of class (grade, leisure, dance award etc)
- Objectives of the class
- What the teacher did
- What the teaching assistant did in the class (if applicable)
- Reflection on the class
- Discussion with the teacher

2. Practical examination and discussion of syllabus requirements

Candidates will demonstrate knowledge and technique appropriate to the chosen genre of:

For Theatre genres:

Either: Preparatory, Primary or Grade 1

Either: Grade 2 or Grade 3

Either: Grade 4 or Grade 5

For Ballroom genres:
Rosette and Stardance Awards

3. Workbook questions

a) What is in the workbook?

The workbook consists of two separate sections:

1. *Safe practice workbook*

The workbook focuses on safe dance practice, health and safety in dance and the roles and responsibilities of dance teaching assistants. Candidates complete the template workbook and respond to the questions within it. The template will be available to download from the IDTA website.

2. *Observation of dance practice logs*

The observation logs record the candidate's observation of 4 dance teaching sessions. The template for the log will be available to download from the IDTA website.

The logs include information about:

- Genre
- Student ages
- Duration of class
- Type of class (grade, leisure, dance award etc)
- Objectives of the class
- What the teacher did
- What the teaching assistant did in the class (if applicable)
- Reflection on the class
- Discussion with the teacher

b) Why is the workbook important?

Most dance qualifications cover safe dance practice – it is now common in GCSE and A level as well as being covered in a lot of other teaching qualifications. So IDTA needs to make sure that it is giving sufficient attention to safe dance practice so that as an organisation we can be satisfied that those learners who achieve the level 3 Diploma for Dance Teaching Assistants have knowledge and understanding in this area.

c) What are we asking candidates to do?

When they apply for the level 3 Diploma for Dance Teaching Assistants, candidates will be asked to submit a workbook which contains evidence of safe dance.

We will only be asking for a completed workbook and teaching observation logs. Templates for these will be available from the IDTA website.

IDTA is producing detailed candidate guidance which gives a detailed breakdown of what learners need to do to complete the workbook.

d) Why a workbook?

This is a good way for candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding because:

- It allows them to use specific examples from their own practice or what they have observed
- They can complete the workbook and teaching observation logs at a pace to suit them.

e) What information will there be for examiners?

Detailed examiner guidance has been produced which gives information about:

How to complete the examiner report form

- What to look for in the workbook
- How to make judgements about evidence provided

f) Do candidates have to submit an additional workbook if they want to take a further qualification in an additional genre?

Candidates wanting to take an additional genre do not have to re-submit their workbook although they may wish to update it for the examination. The application form will ask candidates to state whether they wish to 'bank' the workbook or submit a new one for an additional genre.

g) Does Head Office issue questions for the workbook?

The templates for the workbook will be available from the IDTA website and contain the information needed for candidates including questions to respond to. There will also be guidance for candidates which will be available to download from the IDTA website.

h) Will candidates be able to e-mail the workbook to Head Office?

No. Candidates should bring the completed workbook with them to the examination.

i) Would poor spelling grammar or presentation affect the marks awarded in the workbook?

Spelling, grammar and presentation would only affect the marks if the examiner could not understand or read the workbook as they wouldn't be able to judge the evidence.

4. Technique and syllabus knowledge questions

a) How similar is the technique and syllabus knowledge to the current Pre-Associate?

There have been some changes to the content for technique and syllabus knowledge, but the level of demand remains the same and many elements are similar.

For Ballroom, Latin, Sequence and Freestyle genres, candidates will be expected to:

- Discuss the theory for their genre
- outline the requirements of each section of the graded examinations from entry to exit and the examination procedure
- discuss the purpose and requirements of Rosette and Stardance awards.
- Demonstrate syllabus elements
- Complete a solo demonstration/amalgamation to music

For Theatre genres, candidates will be expected to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and technique appropriate to the chosen genre of:
 - Either: Preparatory, Primary or Grade 1
 - Either: Grade 2 or Grade 3
 - Either: Grade 4 or Grade 5
- Demonstrate and show an ability to count and instruct rhythmically as requested by the Examiner.
- Discuss observed common faults and corrections.

- Create amalgamations / enchaînements in their chosen grades.
- Discuss the requirements for Dance Awards (formerly medal tests) up to and including Gold.
- Choreograph and present 1 Dance Award (formerly medal test) dance, to their own choice of music for either Bronze, Silver or Gold.
- Demonstrate efficiency in personally editing, organising and operating recorded music.

b) What are the timings for the examination?

The examination timings are:

1 hour and 15 minutes for Ballroom, Latin, Sequence and Freestyle

1 hour and 30 minutes for Ballet, Tap, Modern Jazz and Theatre Craft

5. Marking and achievement bands

a) What are the achievement bands for each section of the examination?

Each element of the examination will be marked separately. The workbook is assessed as achieved/not achieved, technique and syllabus knowledge (80 marks) and discussion (20 marks).

Attainment bands for the Level 3 Diploma for Dance Teaching Assistants are:

Pass 65%

Merit 75%

Distinction 85%

b) Is there a minimum pass mark for elements of the examination?

Yes, the technique section of the examination has a minimum pass mark of 65% across each technique element which candidates **MUST** achieve if they are to pass the examination overall.

c) What if I fail the workbook element of the examination? Can I resubmit the workbook?

If you have not achieved the workbook but met the minimum threshold for the technique element and passed the examination, **one** further opportunity to resubmit your workbook after the examination will be allowed.

The workbook should be submitted directly to Head Office in an electronic format and sent to an examiner to review. If the workbook is judged to be of the required standard, Head Office will complete a report form which adds the second examiner's judgement to the initial marks and return the completed report form to you.

In cases where you are unsuccessful a second time you will have to re-enter for the whole examination.

d) What if I fail the technique element of the examination? Can I bank my workbook and just resit the technique section?

If you have not passed the technique section of the examination, **one** resit which allows you to bank your workbook will be allowed. The examination timings for resits will be 1 hour for Ballroom and Freestyle and 1 hour and 15 minutes for Theatre.

The examiner will mark the technique and communication elements of the examination and send the report form to Head Office. Your workbook mark will be added to the report form at Head Office and an overall mark will be calculated from this.

6. Report forms

a) Is the report form similar to the current Pre-Associate report form?

There is a single report form for the examiner to complete. The report form for Theatre genre is different to those for Ballroom, Latin, Classical Sequence and Freestyle as the technique section has different criteria.