



NATIONAL PERFORMING
ARTS ALLIANCE

EXAMINATION TIMETABLING GUIDELINES

UPDATED AUGUST 2026 VERSION 7

Welcome to your guide to timetabling your session.

Here are a few TIMING things to consider:

- Age of the candidates – little people take longer to enter and leave the room!
- Level and experience of the candidates – some are naturally nervous, may need encouragement, might cry etc.
- Have you applied for Reasonable Adjustments for a candidate – this may affect the set timings given.
- Please allow sufficient time for your Examiner to ‘write up’ and make their decisions in a considered manner.

Although you and us cannot avoid unforeseen events which may lead to the session running behind time hopefully, with careful planning and communication with your examiner prior to the session, this can be avoided.

If you require any help in timetabling or have questions about any of the content in this document please don't hesitate to get in touch – we are always happy to help.

Email : info@npaa.co.uk

JUNGLE JIGGLERS ©

ANY SUBJECT.

Candidates may present ANY subjects/genres/themes per award. You DO NOT need to stick to one throughout. Mix it up, have fun, use props, dress up, play instruments ...

Teacher leads the fun!

AWARD	HOW MANY ROUTINES	OVERALL EXAM TIME + CANDIDATES PER EXAM		
Jungle Jigglers © Award 1 'Begin The Journey'	2 routines	6 mins 1 – 4 candidates	10 mins 5 – 8 candidates	
Jungle Jigglers © Award 2 – 9 OR Single Jungle Jigglers © Award	2 routines	6 mins 1 – 4 candidates	10 mins 5 – 8 candidates	
Jungle Jigglers © Award 10 'Explorer Graduation'	3 routines	10 mins 1 – 4 candidates	15 mins 5 – 8 candidates	

SOLO DANCE PERFORMANCE AWARDS

**ACRODANCE; BALLET; CHEERDANCE; COMMERCIAL; CONTEMPORARY;
DISCO; FREESTYLE; GREEK; HIGHLAND; IRISH; JAZZ; MODERN;
LINE DANCE; LYRICAL; NATIONAL; STREET; TAP**

Please keep the music playing until the examiner requests the candidate/s to stop. ALL ROUTINES SHOULD BE REPEATABLE.

AWARD	HOW MANY ROUTINES/BARS REPEATABLE	OVERALL EXAM TIME	CANDIDATES PER EXAM
Starter Star Beginner	1 x 8 bars	5 mins	1 - 2
		8 mins	3 - 4
Starter Star Improver	1 x 16 bars	5 mins	1 - 2
		8 mins	3 - 4
Starter Star Advanced	1 x 16 bars	5 mins	1 - 2
		8 mins	3 - 4
Bronze	2 x 16 bars	10 mins	1 - 2
		12 mins	3 - 4
Silver	2 x 16 bars	10 mins	1 - 2
		12 mins	3 - 4
Gold	1 x 16 bars	12 mins	1 - 2
	1 x 32 bars	14 mins	3 - 4
Bronze Bar	2 x 16 bars	14 mins	1 - 2
	1 x 32 bars	16 mins	3 - 4
Silver Bar	2 x 16 bars	14 mins	1 - 2
	1 x 32 bars	16 mins	3 - 4
Gold Bar	2 x 16 bars	14 mins	1 - 2
	1 x 32 bars	16 mins	3 - 4
Star 1	1 x 16 bars	15 mins	1 - 2
	2 x 32 bars	20 mins	3 - 4
Star 2	1 x 16 bars	15 mins	1 - 2
	2 x 32 bars	20 mins	3 - 4
Star 3	3 x free choice	15 mins	1 - 2
		20 mins	3 - 4
Intermediate Performer	4 x free choice	20 mins	2
Supreme 1	4 x free choice	20 mins	2
Advanced Performer	4 x free choice	20 mins	2
Supreme 2	5 x free choice	20 mins	2
Elite Performer	5 x free choice	20 mins	2

PARTNERED PERFORMANCE AWARDS

ARGENTINE TANGO, BALLROOM, CLASSICAL SEQUENCE; MODERN SEQUENCE;
LATIN; LATIN SEQUENCE; ROCK & ROLL; SALSA

Please keep the music playing until the examiner requests the candidate to stop. ALL ROUTINES SHOULD BE REPEATABLE.

AWARD	HOW MANY ROUTINES	OVERALL EXAM TIME	MAXIMUM CANDIDATES PER EXAM
Starter Star Beginner	1	5 mins	2
Starter Star Improver	1	5 mins	
Starter Star Advanced	1	5 mins	
Bronze	2	8 mins	
Silver	2	8 mins	
Gold	2	8 mins	
Bronze Bar	3	10 mins	
Silver Bar	3	10 mins	
Gold Bar	3	10 mins	
Star 1	4	12 mins	
Star 2	4	12 mins	
Star 3	4	12 mins	
Intermediate Performer	5	15 mins	
Supreme 1	5	15 mins	
Advanced Performer	5	18 mins	
Supreme 2	5	18 mins	
Elite Performer	5	20 mins	

SOLO VOCAL PERFORMANCE AWARDS

**ACTING FOR STAGE; ACTING FOR SCREEN;
MUSICAL THEATRE; POP VOCALS;
PUBLIC SPEAKING, SINGING; SONG & DANCE
TV PRESENTING, VERSE & PROSE**

AWARD	HOW MANY PIECES?	OVERALL EXAM TIME	MAXIMUM CANDIDATES PER EXAM
Starter Star Beginner	1	5 mins	1
Starter Star Improver	1	5 mins	
Starter Star Advanced	1	5 mins	
Bronze	2	8 mins	
Silver	2	8 mins	
Gold	2	8 mins	
Bronze Bar	3	10 mins	
Silver Bar	3	10 mins	
Gold Bar	3	10 mins	
Star 1	4	12 mins	
Star 2	4	12 mins	
Star 3	4	12 mins	
Intermediate Performer	5	15 mins	
Supreme 1	5	15 mins	
Advanced Performer	5	18 mins	
Supreme 2	5	18 mins	
Elite Performer	5	20 mins	

GROUPS 'IT'S SHOWTIME' PERFORMANCE AWARDS

AWARD	HOW MANY ROUTINES / PIECES	OVERALL EXAM TIME
Beginner	1	10 mins
Improver	2	15 mins
Intermediate	2	20 mins
Advanced	3	25 mins
Elite	3	30 mins

Improver, Intermediate, Advanced and Elite groups may choose to present more than one style/genre in exam.

Please ensure that any group choosing this option should be aware that the 'overall exam time' includes time for changing shoes/costumes/props where appropriate.

FIRST STEPS/MOVES, FOUNDATION LEVEL 1 & 2

**ACRODANCE, BALLET, CHEERDANCE,
CONTEMPORARY, MODERN JAZZ, STREET, TAP**

Please refer to the separate ENTRY LEVEL programme for examination content in each subject.

AWARD	SUBJECT	OVERALL EXAM TIME	CANDIDATES PER EXAM
FIRST	BALLET	8 mins 10 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
	TAP	8 mins 10 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
	JAZZ	8 mins 10 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
	CONTEMPORARY	6 mins 8 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
	ACRODANCE	6 mins 8 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
	CHEER	6 mins 8 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
	STREET	6 mins 8 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
FOUNDATION LEVEL 1	BALLET	10 mins 12 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
	TAP	10 mins 12 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
	JAZZ	10 mins 12 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
	CONTEMPORARY	8 mins 10 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
	ACRODANCE	8 mins 10 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
	CHEER	8 mins 10 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
	STREET	8 mins 10 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
FOUNDATION LEVEL 2	BALLET	12 mins 14 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
	TAP	12 mins 14 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
	JAZZ	12 mins 14 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
	CONTEMPORARY	10 mins 12 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
	ACRODANCE	10 mins 12 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
	CHEER	10 mins 12 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
	STREET	8 mins 10 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4

SOLO SPEECH & DRAMA

**Please refer to the SOLO SPEECH & DRAMA programme
for examination content.**

AWARD	SUBJECT	OVERALL EXAM TIME	CANDIDATES PER EXAM
FIRST WORDS	SPEECH & DRAMA	5 mins	1
FOUNDATION LEVEL 1		6 mins	1
FOUNDATION LEVEL 2		7 mins	1
GRADE 1		10 mins	1
GRADE 2		12 mins	1
GRADE 3		13 mins	1
GRADE 4		15 mins	1
GRADE 5		17 mins	1
GRADE 6		20 mins	1
GRADE 7		25 mins	1
GRADE 8		30 mins	1

DUO SPEECH & DRAMA

**Please refer to the DUO SPEECH & DRAMA programme
for examination content.**

AWARD	SUBJECT	OVERALL EXAM TIME	CANDIDATES PER EXAM
FIRST WORDS	SPEECH & DRAMA	8 mins	2
FOUNDATION LEVEL 1		9 mins	2
FOUNDATION LEVEL 2		9 mins	2
GRADE 1		13 mins	2
GRADE 2		16 mins	2
GRADE 3		17 mins	2
GRADE 4		22 mins	2
GRADE 5		24 mins	2
GRADE 6		28 mins	2
GRADE 7		30 mins	2
GRADE 8		35 mins	2

GROUPS SPEECH & DRAMA

**Please refer to the GROUP SPEECH & DRAMA programme
for examination content.**

AWARD	SUBJECT	OVERALL EXAM TIME	CANDIDATES PER EXAM
FIRST WORDS	SPEECH & DRAMA	7 mins	1 GROUP
FOUNDATION LEVEL 1		8 mins	1 GROUP
FOUNDATION LEVEL 2		10 mins	1 GROUP
GRADE 1		12 mins	1 GROUP
GRADE 2		14 mins	1 GROUP
GRADE 3		16 mins	1 GROUP
GRADE 4		18 mins	1 GROUP
GRADE 5		20 mins	1 GROUP
GRADE 6		25 mins	1 GROUP
GRADE 7		30 mins	1 GROUP
GRADE 8		35 mins	1 GROUP

SOLO MUSICAL THEATRE

**Please refer to the SOLO MUSICAL THEATRE programme
for examination content.**

AWARD	SUBJECT	OVERALL EXAM TIME	CANDIDATES PER EXAM
FIRST WORDS	MUSICAL THEATRE	5 mins	1
FOUNDATION LEVEL 1		6 mins	1
FOUNDATION LEVEL 2		7 mins	1
GRADE 1		10 mins	1
GRADE 2		12 mins	1
GRADE 3		13 mins	1
GRADE 4		15 mins	1
GRADE 5		17 mins	1
GRADE 6		20 mins	1
GRADE 7		25 mins	1
GRADE 8		30 mins	1

DUO MUSICAL THEATRE

**Please refer to the DUO MUSICAL THEATRE programme
for examination content.**

AWARD	SUBJECT	OVERALL EXAM TIME	CANDIDATES PER EXAM
FIRST WORDS	MUSICAL THEATRE	8 mins	2
FOUNDATION LEVEL 1		9 mins	2
FOUNDATION LEVEL 2		9 mins	2
GRADE 1		13 mins	2
GRADE 2		16 mins	2
GRADE 3		17 mins	2
GRADE 4		22 mins	2
GRADE 5		24 mins	2
GRADE 6		28 mins	2
GRADE 7		30 mins	2
GRADE 8		35 mins	2

GROUPS MUSICAL THEATRE

**Please refer to the GROUP SPEECH & DRAMA programme
for examination content.**

AWARD	SUBJECT	OVERALL EXAM TIME	CANDIDATES PER EXAM
FIRST WORDS	MUSICAL THEATRE	7 mins	1 GROUP
FOUNDATION LEVEL 1		8 mins	1 GROUP
FOUNDATION LEVEL 2		10 mins	1 GROUP
GRADE 1		12 mins	1 GROUP
GRADE 2		14 mins	1 GROUP
GRADE 3		16 mins	1 GROUP
GRADE 4		18 mins	1 GROUP
GRADE 5		20 mins	1 GROUP
GRADE 6		25 mins	1 GROUP
GRADE 7		30 mins	1 GROUP
GRADE 8		35 mins	1 GROUP

GQAL REGULATED BALLET GRADES

**Please refer to the BALLET programme
for examination content.**

AWARD & SUBJECT	CANDIDATES PER EXAM	OVERALL TIME
GRADE 1 BALLET	1 - 2	20 mins
	3 - 4	25 mins
GRADE 2 BALLET	1 - 2	20 mins
	3 - 4	25 mins
GRADE 3 BALLET	1 - 2	30 mins
	3 - 4	35 mins
GRADE 4 BALLET	1 - 2	30 mins
	3 - 4	35 mins
GRADE 5 BALLET	1 - 2	35 mins
	3 - 4	40 mins
GRADE 6 BALLET	1 - 2	35 mins
	3 - 4	40 mins
GRADE 7 BALLET	1 - 2	45 mins
	3 - 4	50 mins
GRADE 8 BALLET	1 - 2	55 mins
	3 - 4	60 mins

GQAL REGULATED CONTEMPORARY GRADES

Please refer to the individual Grade programme in CONTEMPORARY for examination content.

AWARD & SUBJECT	CANDIDATES PER EXAM	OVERALL TIME
GRADE 1 CONTEM	1 - 2	15 mins
	3 - 4	20 mins
GRADE 2 CONTEM	1 - 2	15 mins
	3 - 4	20 mins
GRADE 3 CONTEM	1 - 2	20 mins
	3 - 4	25 mins
GRADE 4 CONTEM	1 - 2	30 mins
	3 - 4	35 mins
GRADE 5 CONTEM	1 - 2	30 mins
	3 - 4	35 mins
GRADE 6 CONTEM	1 - 2	45 mins
	3 - 4	50 mins

- **Grade 7 is currently under development.
Timeframe for release and regulation is Easter 2027**

GQAL REGULATED TAP GRADES

**Please refer to the individual grade programme
in TAP for examination content.**

AWARD & SUBJECT	CANDIDATES PER EXAM	OVERALL TIME
GRADE 1 TAP	1 - 2	15 mins
	3 - 4	20 mins
GRADE 2 TAP	1 - 2	15 mins
	3 - 4	20 mins
GRADE 3 TAP	1 - 2	20 mins
	3 - 4	25 mins
GRADE 4 TAP	1 - 2	25 mins
	3 - 4	30 mins
GRADE 5 TAP	1 - 2	25 mins
	3 - 4	30 mins
GRADE 6 TAP	1 - 2	30 mins
	3 - 4	35 mins
GRADE 7 TAP	1 - 2	35 mins
	3 - 4	40 mins
GRADE 8 TAP	1 - 2	40 mins
	3 - 4	45 mins

GQAL REGULATED MODERN JAZZ GRADES

**Please refer to the individual programme
in MODERN JAZZ for examination content.**

AWARD & SUBJECT	CANDIDATES PER EXAM	OVERALL TIME
GRADE 1 JAZZ	1 - 2	15 mins
	3 - 4	20 mins
GRADE 2 JAZZ	1 - 2	15 mins
	3 - 4	20 mins
GRADE 3 JAZZ	1 - 2	20 mins
	3 - 4	25 mins
GRADE 4 JAZZ	1 - 2	25 mins
	3 - 4	30 mins
GRADE 5 JAZZ	1 - 2	25 mins
	3 - 4	30 mins
GRADE 6 JAZZ	1 - 2	35 mins
	3 - 4	40 mins
GRADE 7 JAZZ	1 - 2	35 mins
	3 - 4	40 mins
GRADE 8 JAZZ	1 - 2	45 mins
	3 - 4	50 mins

NON - REGULATED CLASS GRADE BALLET

Used in conjunction with the Ballet Grades programme.
Please refer to the individual **CLASS GRADE** syllabus
in **BALLET** for examination content.

AWARD & SUBJECT	OVERALL EXAM TIME	MAXIMUM CANDIDATES PER EXAM
CLASS GRADE 1 BALLET	10 mins 15 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 2 BALLET	10 mins 15 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 3 BALLET	15 mins 20 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 4 BALLET	15 mins 20 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 5 BALLET	15 mins 20 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 6 BALLET	20 mins 25 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 7 BALLET	25 mins 30 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 8 BALLET	30 mins 35 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4

NON REGULATED CLASS GRADE CONTEMPORARY

Used in conjunction with the Contemporary Grades programme. Please refer to the individual **CLASS GRADE** syllabus in **COMTEMPORARY** for examination content.

AWARD & SUBJECT	OVERALL EXAM TIME	MAXIMUM CANDIDATES PER EXAM
CLASS GRADE 1 CONTEM	10 mins 15 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 2 CONTEM	10 mins 15 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 3 CONTEM	10 mins 15 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 4 CONTEM	15 mins 20 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 5 CONTEM	15 mins 20 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 6 CONTEM	20 mins 25 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 7 CONTEM	20 mins 25 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 8 CONTEM	25 mins 30 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4

NON REGULATED CLASS GRADE TAP

**Used in conjunction with the Tap Grades programme.
Please refer to the individual CLASS GRADE syllabus
in TAP for examination content.**

AWARD & SUBJECT	OVERALL EXAM TIME	MAXIMUM CANDIDATES PER EXAM
CLASS GRADE 1 TAP	10 mins	1 – 2
	15 mins	3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 2 TAP	10 mins	1 – 2
	15 mins	3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 3 TAP	15 mins	1 – 2
	20 mins	3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 4 TAP	15 mins	1 – 2
	20 mins	3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 5 TAP	20 mins	1 – 2
	25 mins	3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 6 TAP	25 mins	1 – 2
	30 mins	3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 7 TAP	25 mins	1 – 2
	30 mins	3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 8 TAP	25 mins	1 – 2
	30 mins	3 – 4

NON REGULATED CLASS GRADE MODERN JAZZ

Used in conjunction with the Modern Jazz Grades programme. Please refer to the individual CLASS GRADE syllabus in MODERN JAZZ for examination content.

AWARD & SUBJECT	OVERALL EXAM TIME	MAXIMUM CANDIDATES PER EXAM
CLASS GRADE 1 MJAZZ	10 mins 15 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 2 MJAZZ	10 mins 15 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 3 MJAZZ	10 mins 15 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 4 MJAZZ	15 mins 20 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 5 MJAZZ	15 mins 20 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 6 MJAZZ	20 mins 25 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 7 MJAZZ	20 mins 25 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 8 MJAZZ	25 mins 30 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4

NON REGULATED CLASS GRADE ACRODANCE

**Please refer to the individual syllabus
in ACRODANCE for examination content.**

AWARD & SUBJECT	OVERALL EXAM TIME	MAXIMUM CANDIDATES PER EXAM
CLASS GRADE 1 ACRO	8 mins 10 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 2 ACRO	8 mins 10 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 3 ACRO	10 mins 12 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 4 ACRO	12 mins 15 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 5 ARO	12 mins 15 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 6 ACRO	16 mins 18 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 7 ACRO	16 mins 18 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4
CLASS GRADE 8 ACRO	20 mins 22 mins	1 – 2 3 – 4

POINTE VOCATIONAL GRADES

**Please refer to the individual syllabus
in POINTE for examination content.**

AWARD	OVERALL EXAM TIME	MAXIMUM CANDIDATES PER EXAM
INTERMEDIATE FOUNDATION	15 mins	2
INTERMEDIATE	20 mins	2
ADVANCED 1	25 mins	2
ADVANCED 2	30 mins	2

CHOREOGRAPHY VOCATIONAL GRADES

**Please refer to the individual syllabus
in CHOREOGRAPHY for examination content.**

AWARD & SUBJECT	TOTAL EXAM TIME	MAXIMUM CANDIDATES PER EXAM
INTERMEDIATE FOUNDATION	15 mins	1
INTERMEDIATE	20 mins	1
ADVANCED 1	25 mins	1
ADVANCED 2	30 mins	1