

## May 2018 extended essay reports

### Dance

#### Overall grade boundaries

<b>Grade:</b>	E	D	C	B	A
<b>Mark range:</b>	0-6	7-13	14-20	21-26	27-34

#### The range and suitability of the work submitted

A range of interesting topics was presented demonstrating the candidates' interests and experience in dance. It is important that candidates select a research topic that both inspires and interests them.

#### Candidate performance against each criterion

##### Criterion A: focus and method

Generally the focus of the research was clear and indicated that candidates had chosen a research topic that really interested them. However, there were many who presented interesting information but did not undertake clear and appropriate research. Candidates need assistance in formulating a clear research topic and a process that identifies an emphasis and appropriate resources. Candidates need assistance in finding a specific perspective, particularly if it is a controversial topic. In examining different points of view related to the topic candidates will have more in depth understanding and knowledge of the topic. The discussion of purpose was often personal and did not always relate to the research.

##### Criterion B: knowledge and understanding

In most cases, the essays demonstrated clear knowledge and understanding. In those cases where there appeared to be a lack of knowledge and understanding information the discussion was limited and was not supported by good evidence. Candidates are encouraged to use both primary and secondary sources and selecting sources that are relevant and support the argument. There is often limited use of good secondary sources, particularly sources found on the internet. Internet sources need to be checked carefully for reliability. Candidates need guidance and practice in interpreting information and formulating a strong argument and conclusion through rigorous research.

### Criterion C: critical thinking

Some candidates demonstrated good synthesis and evaluation of the information they had selected. Where some candidates found this task difficult they needed help in supporting their personal views with good evidence and evaluating sources. Gathering and evaluating sources to support the argument was difficult for some candidates.

### Criterion D: presentation

Many candidates demonstrated good research skills and abilities to select relevant materials. In the cases where students did not do so well in this area it appeared that time had not been spent on searching for relevant and high-quality sources.

### Criterion E: engagement

The responses in this area varied greatly. Many only provided a diary of the times spent with teachers/mentors to thoughtful evaluations of the research process. Candidates need guidance and practice in examining their process, identifying the relevant development of their research. It is important to include discussions with supervisors; however, there needs to be clear reflections on decisions made and how these decisions were made during the process.

## Recommendations for the supervision of future candidates

Candidates need time and practice in researching suitable and good sources. They also need to practice conceptualizing, analyzing and evaluating information in various stages before embarking on a 4000 word essay. Candidates need more help in reflective practice to identify how and why they have made decisions about the research and the writing of the essay.

Encouraging candidates to be clear, open-minded and informed about dance and its many manifestations rather than seeing dance through one lens; for instance, that dance is an artistic and cultural expression and exists in theatrical, recreational and social contexts.