



MINIMUM AGES – HOW AND WHY?

Cut-off dates for minimum ages are 1 January and 1 September.

The minimum age rule was changed in order to guide candidates through the preparation and training for their exams at an appropriate age, due to the demands of the new syllabus and in accordance with safe dance practice. Examiners were becoming more concerned that dancers were too young for the exams they were attempting, which reduced successful outcomes and risked damaging students' development.

Minimum ages align with the period of training, when students are learning the work, rather than when they take their exam.

Removing the age rule altogether could result in students being entered for exams far too early. We realise that students develop at different rates, but the only fair basis on which we can apply the policy is that of age.

As many teachers lay great store by their students' exam results, we are certain that the policy will help teachers and encourage students, as results are likely to be enhanced and achievement maximised when students learn the work at the correct developmental stage.

The policy change was first announced in February 2011, and we have supported teachers with a flexible approach to the policy as they make the necessary arrangements in their schools. Although this transitional period is now over, we still sometimes grant dispensations when candidates miss the deadline by a small amount. Please contact your local RAD office for more information.

*Examinations Board
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