

Key exams news and updates to RAD members

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# Focus on Exams

## Issue 1 – February 2015

Welcome to *Focus on Exams*, the RAD publication dedicated entirely to exams matters. After the success of our email edition last year, we have decided to retain this format for each February edition – with printed editions in June and October.

We include key exams news and updates, but some information, such as names of successful Solo Seal candidates and new and retiring examiners, will be included in the next printed copy.

The new exams delivery model is now in place and we hope that teachers are enjoying more flexibility about when and where to enter candidates for exams.

Please do let us know how we are doing via [exams@rad.org.uk](mailto:exams@rad.org.uk) – we are always pleased to receive feedback about any aspect of RAD exams!



## Changes in 2015

[Visit our website](#) to read the updated *Examinations Information, Rules and Regulations and Specifications* documents.

These include important details about exam entry processes, exam content and marking, what happens on the exam day, results and certificates.

If you have any comments, suggestions or questions about these documents please email Harriet Grant [hgrant@rad.org.uk](mailto:hgrant@rad.org.uk).



## Class Awards – exercises

We have introduced a choice of some exercises (either/or) in the Grades 1–5 Class Awards. Candidates no longer need to perform all the exercises in the syllabus.

This affects the Techniques 2, 3 and 4 sections. Details of the choices are included in the relevant [Specifications](#).

This change takes place with immediate effect. However, we realise that there will be a transition period where some candidates will still perform all exercises. Examiners are aware of this and will accept either the selection, or all exercises, during 2015.

## New syllabi

Thursday 21 May will see the launch of the New



## **Solo Performance Awards now regulated qualifications!**

RAD Solo Performance Awards at Grades 1–5 are now recognised by Ofqual as regulated qualifications.

The new qualifications are on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) at Levels 1 and 2.

Solo Performance Awards are ‘other general’ qualifications, regulated by CCEA in Northern Ireland; this will allow the RAD to maintain recognition by this regulator.

Recognition is important because it means that RAD exams meet standards set by national regulators which report to

Advanced 1 & 2 male syllabi. As with the previous Advanced launch, it will be in virtual (online) format, allowing teachers and students all over the world to participate. The new male syllabi will ensure parity with the female syllabi, and will be examined from January 2016.

The new work will include a solo by Robert Binet, commissioned choreographer for the Genée International Ballet competition 2013, called *Open Form*. During the launch, members will get an insight into the creation of the solo and the challenges that face young male dancers today, as well as insights from the creative panel on the ethos, choreography and music.

parliament and Government; you can be assured that our exams and awards are of high quality, and are externally recognised.



### Intermediate exam timing

This has been increased by 5 minutes for 3 and 4 candidates – i.e. the time is now 75 minutes, not 70. Any exams already timetabled for 70 minutes will run to this schedule, but for future planning, please add an extra 5 minutes. [See all timings.](#)

### Syllabus music errata

Listed below are some errata related to the RAD syllabus music books. Please note the CD is

### Your exams successes!

From November 2014, we have started to dedicate one Friday each month to exams on our social media channels, followed by over 100,000 people.

Make sure that you are following us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) so that you can shout about your successes!

### Reminders and updates

#### Minimum age

To ensure safe dance practice and maximise achievement, candidates must have reached the specified minimum age by:

- ? 1 January (for exam sessions taking place between January

correct in all cases. You can also see these errata on the [RAD website](#).

**Grades 4–5 Music for Set Exercises and Dances (200G45) Character Dance D**

- ? In bars 9–15 the left hand has the melody line, so should therefore predominate.
- ? In bar 16, there should be a pause on the last chord.
- ? In bar 17, there should be a rallentando in the second half of the bar.

**Music Intermediate Ballet Male and Female (200INT)**

- ? Pointe – Temps lié and courus: While this piece is written in 2/4 time the crotchet beat is very slow, which is why the

- and August); or
- ? 1 September (for exam sessions taking place between September and December), in the year the exam takes place.

Visit the [RAD website](#) for more details.

**Rosin**

Rosin should not be used on dance floors such as Harlequin® and Tarkett®. Such floors are not slippery like wooden floors, and the use of rosin can damage them.

**Optional tutu or skirt for vocational graded exams**

Female candidates taking vocational graded exams now have the option of wearing a half tutu for Variation 1 and a short skirt for Variation 2 (both available from [RAD Enterprises](#)). Ideally the

metronome marking is written as a quaver. In addition, teachers should prepare candidates for the start of the exercise with a 'ready, and' in the tempo of what is to follow, as the dancer should step on the first chord of the introduction.

**New Advanced  
Foundation  
Male/Female Ballet  
Printed Music  
(200ADV F)**

- ? Adage: should be played legato throughout
- ? Pointe, relevés and posés: The metronome mark should be quaver = 60 (i.e. half the speed written in the music book)
- ? Pirouette enchaînement:

tutu or skirt should match or tone with the leotard worn.

For more information on leotard colours, please see the relevant **Specification**.

**Entry forms**

Please remember to fill in the level Code and Exam Type columns on the AEC2 and RAV3 forms, so that organisers know what exam or award candidates are going to present.

**Staff and contacts**

**Examinations  
department at RAD HQ**

In October 2014 we were pleased to welcome

**Lillian Doleman**  
(Examinations Resources Administrator) and  
**Katharine Christopher**  
(Examinations Business

should be played  
at a consistent  
tempo throughout

**New Advanced 1  
Female Ballet Printed  
Music (200ADV1)**

- ? Révérence: this is not the correct length in the music book. A pdf copy of the correct length is available on the [RAD website](#)

**New Advanced 2  
Female Ballet Printed  
Music (200ADV2)**

- ? Battement tendu: the metronome mark should be quaver = 126 instead of crotchet = 126

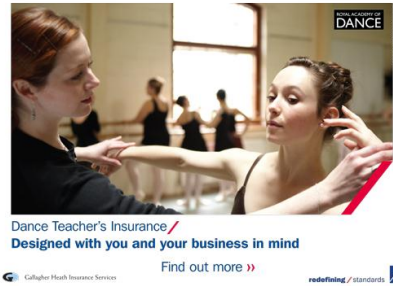
and Customer Services Administrator). From February 2015, our International Officer role will be undertaken by **Kirsty Yeung** for nine months while **Joanna Pigeon** is on maternity leave, and our Examination Operations Administrator role will be filled by **Cecilia Matteucci** for the same period.

**Contacts**

For general queries contact [exams@rad.org.uk](mailto:exams@rad.org.uk).

To register candidates (in all countries except Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa) email [idregistration@rad.org.uk](mailto:idregistration@rad.org.uk).

To find an RAD contact, visit our [website](#).



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