

## DANCE

### Overall grade boundaries

<b>Grade:</b>	E	D	C	B	A
<b>Mark range:</b>	0 - 7	8 - 15	16 - 22	23 - 28	29 - 36

### General comments

There was a large increase in papers submitted for this category in 2009. There were a number of excellent papers and on the whole the standard of the writing and the analysis and understanding of the research questions showed considerable improvement. However, there are some suggestions to submit that might further improve the level of accomplishment for the candidates.

There were a number of submissions where the supervisors offered no comments at all. There were a few that proved to be helpful for the process of marking. There were also instances where the supervisor commented inappropriately, seeking support for candidates or excusing them for poor performances. It should be made clear to the supervisors that their comments should only offer information about meetings, schedules and other matters relevant to the process, not the content.

Given the reality of the number of candidates that are writing in their second language, it would also be beneficial for the supervisors to assist them in identifying areas of the essay that need to be improved. It is important that the candidate not be marked on the basis of language alone as long as the thought and the analysis is clearly understood. To this end, supervisors should be encouraged to assist students.

There is still a problem with some of the candidates' understanding of the difference between primary and secondary sources for their research. Some depend almost entirely on the internet as source material. A few resort to live interviews with knowledgeable artists and teachers, live performance attendance and video/DVD access. These are good sources. In this matter, I suggest that supervisors should be encouraged to give clear advice to the candidates and to make sure that appropriate sources are available within the vicinity to support the research subject chosen.

Some, but not all candidates appear to have had physical experience of the dance subject chosen for the essay. While this experience might contribute well to the subject, it is not necessarily required. After all, many excellent critics and writers about dance have had no personal involvement as dancers or choreographers.

For the most part, the criteria now used are clearly stated although there are still instances where the candidates do not seem to understand the research process and do not pose a question or follow a research format. There is also a continuing tendency for students to redundantly treat Abstract, Introduction and Conclusion as one and the same issue.

It was encouraging to see the increasing number of students who have elected to write extended essays on dance topics this time round. It is a further indication that the field of dance is an art form that deserves thoughtful and meaningful investigation.

## Candidate performance against each criterion

### **A: research question**

Except for a very few candidates, this criterion was well understood and supported.

### **B: introduction**

Several candidates approached this criterion redundantly including aspects of the abstract and conclusion.

### **C: investigation**

Some candidates lacked a clear understanding of this criterion.

### **D: knowledge and understanding of the topic studied**

On the whole this criterion was approached appropriately but some candidates relied too heavily on secondary sources of information.

### **E: reasoned argument**

Some candidates lacked the capacity to provide a reasonable argument.

### **F: application of analytical and evaluative skills appropriate to the subject**

This criterion was generally well understood with the exception of some candidates lacked skills appropriate for the subject.

### **G: use of language appropriate to the subject**

This criterion was mostly approached satisfactorily.

### **H: conclusion**

Refer to criterion B above.

**I: formal presentation**

Too many candidates made no or few citations of sources of information.

**J: abstract**

Refer to criterion B above.

**K: holistic judgment**

There were variations of accomplishment in line with pre-university level candidates.

**Recommendations for the supervision of future candidates**

As a general comment I would advise candidates and supervisors to work closely together from the beginning of the assignment.