

DAA – GUIDELINES FOR ASSESSORS

Syllabus November 2014 (wording clarified April 2015)

ASSESSORS CRITERIA

Thank you for agreeing to undertake assessing the Dancing Achievement Award. This assessment has been designed to promote and encourage good technique, and further a good standard of dancing throughout the Society.

The set dances take the dancers through increasing levels of difficulty - Intermediate, Advanced and Very Advanced. The dances expand their knowledge of formations and their dancing technique as they progress through the levels.

This assessment should be a positive experience for all involved and encourage the dancers to keep dancing, seeing the benefits of using their new acquired knowledge on the dance floor.

1.0 Preparation

- 1.1 Before the start of the assessment, the RSCDS Examinations Officer will provide the assessors with copies of the dancers' Application forms (DAA – 07 or DAA - 07b) and the appropriate number of Assessment forms (DAA-06) with the dancers' names and Branch already inserted. Assessors should receive them at least seven days before the assessment. Extra blank result sheets will also be sent to the assessors. Details of the venue will also be sent.
- 1.2 The organiser will send the order of dancing list to both assessors, as far in advance as possible , and no later than 7 days before the day of the assessment in the case of a non-residential course or minimum of 24 hours in the case of a residential course. A note should be made against a dancer, who has a disability / impairment or whose is not a native English speaker.
- 1.3 Assessors' travel expenses may be claimed from RSCDS Headquarters on form DAA-15. Accommodation, meals and hospitality is the responsibility of the centre organising the assessment.
- 1.4 In planning the timetable for the assessments the organisers shall:
 - allow 12-15 minutes per couple for preparation and dancing time
 - allow a further 6-7 minutes for completion of paperwork for each dancer.
 - It is permissible for the final paperwork to be completed at a different venue from the assessment.
 - The organisers must consult with the assessors regarding the arrangements for completion of the paperwork, as this has to be done before the assessors depart home.

2. The Assessment

- 2.1 Each couple will be notified of the dances they are to be assessed on, after entry to the assessment room.
- 2.2 **The format for the assessment will be**
- 1st couple is given their dance and a few moments to talk through with the set.
1st couple do dance A, 2 x 32 bars, music stops and they slip to the foot of the set.
 - Next couple is given their dance and a few moments to talk through with the set, while the assessors write notes on the previous couple.
This couple does dance B, 2 x 32 bars, music stops and they slip to the foot of the set.
 - Next couple is given their dance and a few moments to talk through with the set, while the assessors write notes on the previous couple.
This couple does dance C, 2 x 32 bars, music stops and they slip to the foot of the set.

This format is repeated until all the couples have danced a Jig, Reel and Strathspey as the leading couple.

- 2.3 In the Very Advanced level, each couple will dance the Medley as the leading couple.
- 2.4 In addition to dancing their prescribed dances, each couple will be asked to dance a Jig or Reel time and a Strathspey time formation, chosen by the assessors from the list appropriate to that level, from the Syllabus.
- 2.4 Only the following persons, other than the set of dancers, are permitted to be present during the assessment:
- the teacher of the course
 - either the musician or the person working the music equipment.
 - a steward

They must sit within sight of the assessors but at a distance to preserve the confidentiality of the comments between the assessors.

These persons **must not prompt, coach or interfere** in any way with the assessment. If behaviour is felt to be inappropriate, the lead assessor may request that they leave the room.

2.5 Intermediate and Advanced levels

To achieve a **PASS** at all levels, dancers must gain at least 24 / 48 of which at least 2 marks must be gained in each step section ~ sections 1, 2, 3, 5 & 6.

To achieve a **CREDIT** at all levels, dancers must gain at least 16 / 24 in sections 1 to 7 and gain at least 16 / 24 in sections 8 and 9, of which at least 2 marks must be gained in each step section ~ sections 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6.

To achieve a **DISTINCTION** at all levels, dancers must gain at least 40 /48 of which at least 2 marks must be gained in each step section ~ sections 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6.

2.6 Very Advanced level

To achieve a **PASS** dancers must achieve 29/55 of which at least 2 marks must be gained in each section – sections 1, 2, 3, 5 & 6

To achieve a **CREDIT** dancers must gain at least 16 /24 in sections 1 to 7 and gain at least 21 /31 in sections 8 and 9, of which at least 2 marks must be gained in each section – sections 1, 2, 3, 5 & 6

To achieve a **DISTINCTION** dancers must achieve 45 / 55 of which at least 2 marks must be gained in each step section – sections 1, 2, 3, 5 & 6

2.7 In the event of a disagreement in the marking between the assessors, the lead assessor will have the casting vote.

3.0 The Results

3.1 Assessors shall return the completed sheets to the Examinations Officer at RSCDS Headquarters for issue by RSCDS staff. Assessors will not issue the results at the centre to the dancers, the course teacher or the organisers.

3.2 The Examinations Officer will send out

- i) the original Assessment results sheet (DAA – 06) to the individual dancer
- ii) a copy of the original Assessment results sheet (DAA – 06) to the course teacher marked 'Confidential'.
- iii) Results letter (DAA-17) giving only the names of the dancers and their result to the organiser. The assessment sheets will not be sent to the organiser.
- iv) a copy of the Assessment sheets (DAA-06) will be kept at Headquarters.
- v) Certificate and results letter, as appropriate, to the individual dancers.