

BALLET EXAMS
HANDBOOK

RAD ROYAL ACADEMY
OF DANCE



ENRICHING LIVES
THROUGH DANCE

BALLET AT CAPER

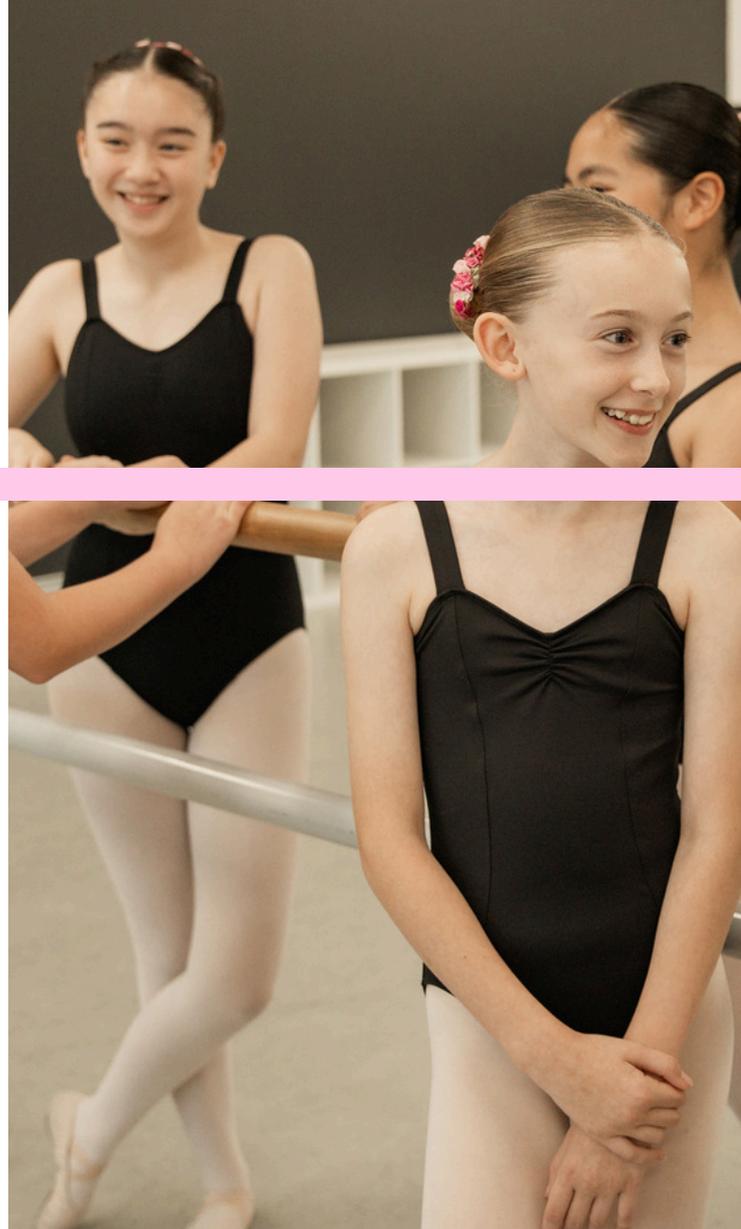
A GUIDE TO RAD EXAMS

There are many organisations that offer examinations in ballet. We train our students under the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) syllabus as it is recognised worldwide and is at the forefront of dance education. The RAD offers pathways from beginners all the way through to vocational training. The RAD Teacher's Certificate is a qualification that is in high demand from employers.

EXAM PREPARATION

It is important that our students have a positive experience in participating in exams. This is why we are careful in ensuring students are placed in the correct level and the process is not rushed. Criteria such as technical ability, posture, musicality, attendance in class, grooming and behaviour is considered when determining a student's aptitude for exams. Exams are suited to students who relish repetition and the pursuit of mastery.

A high level of commitment is expected from Caper exam candidates. We cannot fulfil our duty to prepare students for an exam if they do not fully commit to the program.



REQUIRED CLASSES

Exam students are required to attend two syllabus classes of the same grade per week. It is recommended that students complement their ballet syllabus studies with other dance styles to build strength, flexibility, coordination and musicality.

Graded students require 12 months training in the same grade in order to do an exam. Vocational exam students (Intermediate Foundation level and up) take between 12 and 24 months to prepare. Skill level, work ethic and attendance can impact how long a student takes to prepare for an exam.

BALLET AT CAPER

A GUIDE TO RAD EXAMS

THE EXAM DAY

For students in Primary through to Grade 5 the exams will be held at our studio on a weekday sometime in May or June each year (between 9am and 2pm).

The RAD is responsible for allocating the exam day and exam time so any individual scheduling requests cannot be met.

The location of the vocational grades is assessed each year. They are either held at our studio in Bella Vista or the RAD Headquarters in Darlinghurst. More information is provided each year as the exams are confirmed.

EXTERNAL TUITION

Students receiving regular dance tuition at another dance school are not eligible for ballet exams with Caper (excludes performing arts high schools, Australian Ballet School Interstate Training Program and one-off workshops).

EXAM UNIFORM

The exam uniform and hairstyle will be confirmed in mid-late Term 1 of each year. Please be prepared to purchase brand new items to wear on the exam day.



CLASS UNIFORM

Students in Kindergarten and Year 1 wear the Caper Junior uniform to their ballet classes.

Students in Year 2 (at school) and up are to wear a black, wide-strap gatherfront leotard to ballet classes. A plain black crossover and/or chiffon wrap skirt is optional.

Students in Intermediate Foundation and up may wear a black leotard in a design of their own choice.

BALLET AT CAPER

A GUIDE TO RAD EXAMS

ADDITIONAL EVENTS & REHEARSALS

Each year additional intensives are held during the school holidays in Autumn, Spring and Summer.

Autumn

The Autumn Intensive is held several weeks before the exam each year and is compulsory in order to participate in exams. It can often include the Mock Exam and Set Rehearsals.

Spring & Summer

In addition to the Autumn Intensive, students must attend either the Spring or Summer Intensives in order to be eligible for an exam. However, attendance at both Intensives is recommended.

Pricing

The Intensives and all additional events are an additional cost to weekly classes. Fees for the intensives are charged to all students enrolled in the exam program regardless of whether the student attends. The certainty this provides us means we can keep the costs down for all the exam students.

REFUNDS

Once the exam fee is paid to the RAD, refunds and/or credits are not issued, this includes for illness, injury or change of circumstance.



TIMETABLING

Please be aware that when students start exam work in Term 3 and 4, we cannot guarantee that the class times the following year will continue to suit their personal circumstances.

The studio timetable changes each calendar year to accommodate the needs of the school. This can mean that students might start their exam preparation in one calendar year with a one class time, but may have that class time changed the following calendar year.

BALLET AT CAPER

A GUIDE TO RAD EXAMS

VOCATIONAL EXAMS

After Grade 5, students may commence training for the major exam levels beginning with Intermediate Foundation. At this level expectation of the proficiency of the exam candidates increases significantly.

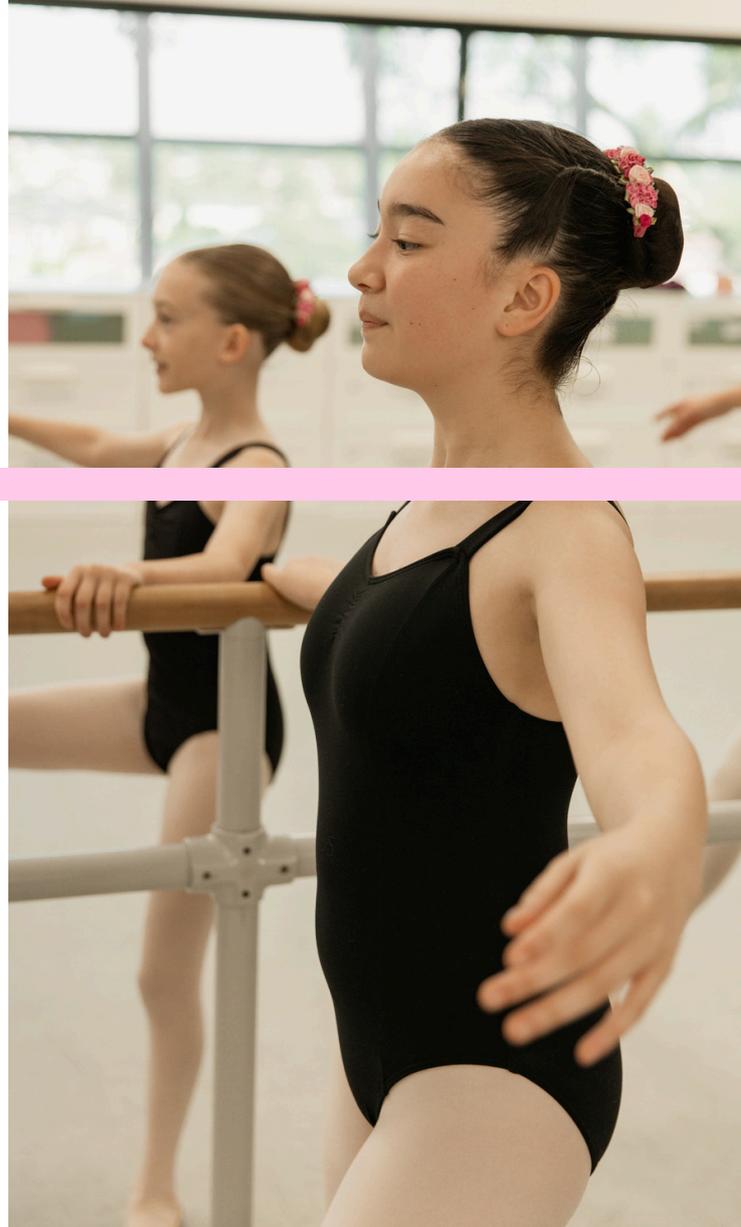
Vocational Exams may not be suitable for everyone. If a student does not do a vocational exam they can still attend the syllabus classes and progress at the same rate as their peers without a formalised assessment. Students may still progress to pointe work if they withdraw from the exam program.

ATTENDANCE

Maintaining regular attendance is important. Parents will be contacted directly if attendance is irregular. Absenteeism can affect the whole class so your cooperation is appreciated.

PRIVATE LESSONS

If private lessons are available for exam preparation, the opportunity will be communicated to all students via the App. Private lessons are not available as a substitute for attendance in classes, the exam intensives or additional events/rehearsals.



POINTE WORK

Students may only wear pointe shoes in class if they have documentation from [Inspired Physiotherapy](#) or [Progressive Sports and Spinal Physiotherapy](#) to state that they possess the physical capability required (we only accept assessments from this physio).

Students should begin the process in Grade 5 so that they are ready to commence pointe exercises when they move to the next level, Intermediate Foundation.

Students who have not been cleared for pointe may wear demi-pointes in class.

BALLET AT CAPER

A GUIDE TO RAD EXAMS

RESULTS & GOAL SETTING

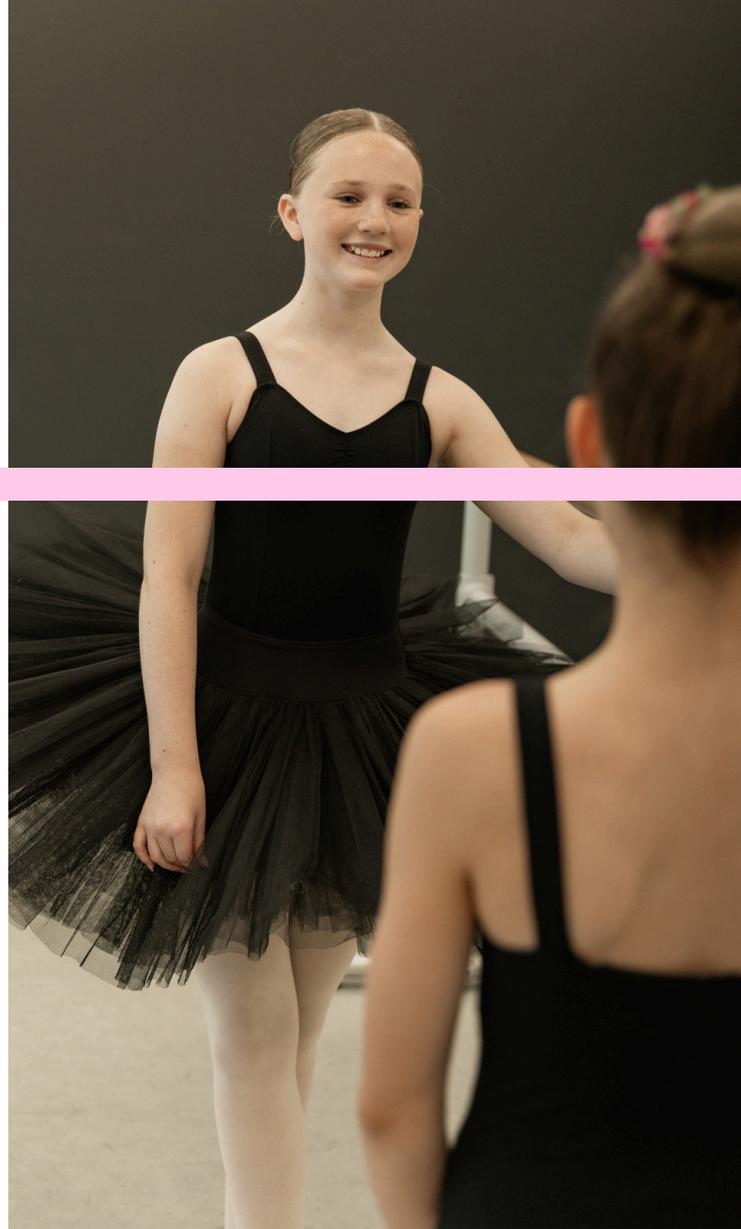
Receiving a result at the end of an exam is a great motivator. It builds confidence, tracks progress and offers learning opportunities from the feedback. However we also teach with the philosophy that the real joy and value and of ballet exams is the "process" not the "prize".

Ballet is a discipline that takes years to consolidate. It requires many hours of dedication, commitment and structured progress. Exams offer great lessons about delayed gratification, the pursuit of mastery and working towards a goal.

When the results arrive, we encourage students to be humble in their success and gracious in celebrating the achievements in others. Exams are not a competition, the examiner marks on individual achievement, they do not mark to rank the students. We believe all students can look back to the past 12 months, 24 months (or even longer) and see their improvement regardless of their exam result.

PRACTICING AT HOME

It is necessary that ballet exam students practice regularly at home in order prepare for the exam.



GRADING

The exam results are usually available in July. Students are given a mark out of 10 in several key learning areas which forms an overall grade below:

- High Distinction 84-100%
- Distinction: 75-84%
- High Merit: 65-74%
- Merit: 55-64%
- Pass: 40-54%

Students also receive a certificate and medal (grades only) from the RAD.