



MODERN BALLROOM DANCE FACULTY

SYLLABUS OUTLINE

OF

AMERICAN SMOOTH

AMATEUR EXAMINATIONS

July 2011

AMERICAN SMOOTH

SYLLABUS OUTLINE

Contents	Page
General Introduction	3
Special Adjustments	3
Results and Certification	3
Amateur Medal Tests	
Introduction	5
Method of Assessment/ Mark Scheme	5
Entry Conditions and General Information	6
Including: Age Divisions, Categories – Solo, Couples,	6
Syllabus Outline	
General	8
Syllabus Content – Introductory Tests	8
One Dance Tests	9
Medal Series	9
Student Division	9
Requirements	9
American Smooth Dance Styles and Syllabus	10

July2011

American Smooth Amateur Syllabus Outline

General Introduction

Dance Sport examinations cover Modern Ballroom, American Smooth, Latin American, Sequence, Disco/Freestyle, Rock 'n' Roll, Country Western, Street Dance & Commercial Hip Hop, and Club Dance. These dance genres provide a wide diversity in both teaching and learning in dance education. On the one level they form the basis of what may sometimes be referred to as 'social' dancing and there is a range of examinations that provides those learning to dance as a recreational activity, the scope to develop quality within performance. At other levels students may pursue their training further through the range of examinations in order to develop the higher artistic and technical skills necessary for competition dancing, stage performance or dance teaching. The examinations offered in all Dance Sport genres enable teachers in differing situations to provide a safe and structured programme for pupils of all ages and abilities.

This syllabus outline gives information about the examinations structure for American Smooth Ballroom Dance examinations only. Syllabi for the other Dance Sport genres are obtainable from ISTD Headquarters and the ISTD web-site. Separate syllabi for some other genres are also available for the Diploma in Dance Instruction and Diploma in Dance Education.

Examinations for American Smooth Ballroom Dance include:

Amateur Medal Tests	Introductory Tests
	One Dance Tests
	Medal Series – Bronze.
	All Higher Awards – under development

Examination Entry – All Levels

- 1 Teachers entering candidates for ISTD examinations in Dance Sport should hold the appropriate ISTD teaching qualifications. Further information can be obtained from the Education and Training Department. .
- 2 Application forms for examination sessions are available from either ISTD Headquarters or ISTD website and completed forms should be received at Headquarters at least 8 weeks prior to the date required.
- 3 There must be an interval of 3 months from the date of the original examination if the candidate wishes to retake it for any reason.
- 4 No pregnant dancer is permitted to take part in any ISTD dance examination, either as candidate or partner.

Candidates Who May Require Reasonable Adjustments to the Assessment

The ISTD is committed to promoting an environment where all individuals are encouraged to achieve their full potential and develop their skills, encouraging its teachers to maintain an open approach towards the different talents and abilities offered by all their students. It is, therefore, required of all ISTD teaching members that they do not discriminate, either directly or indirectly, on the grounds of colour, race, nationality, ethnic origin, gender, mental or physical disability, marital status or sexuality, and pupils with disabilities should not be treated less or more favourably than able-bodied pupils simply because of their disability.

Disability takes the form of mental or physical impairment or both, and may be long or short term. The ISTD recognises that some students with a mental or physical impairment may need special adjustments to assessment conditions to allow them to demonstrate their knowledge in dance. The following procedure should be used in all cases, every time the candidate enters for an examination, as the conditions, and necessary adjustments may change.

If a teacher wishes to enter such a pupil for an examination, the ISTD would like to make it clear that although pupils with mental or physical impairments may require extra time in an examination, or special aids (eg special headphones if the candidate is deaf), in order to perform to the best of their ability, the quality of the performance in an examination is to be equal to that of an able-bodied candidate. The candidate cannot be marked on different criteria because of the restriction the impairment may cause them. This is mandatory in order to achieve a true and fair dance award.

If such a candidate is to be submitted for an examination, the teacher must apply to the Customer Services & Quality Assurance Department for 'Application for Reasonable Adjustments' form, or download it from the Customer Services section of the ISTD website, www.istd.org. This should be completed and returned, with a doctor's letter if relevant, to the Customer Services & Quality Assurance Department, a minimum of three weeks prior to the examination timetable being sent in to the Examinations Department. This form will be submitted to the Customer Services and Quality Assurance Department and examined on a case by case basis. Teachers will be notified of all decisions prior to the examination.

This procedure applies to all ISTD examinations, in the UK and internationally, and should be used in all cases where the candidate has a short or long term impairment, even if alterations to assessment conditions are not requested by the teacher. The ISTD will consider if, in their opinion, any changes should nevertheless be made, in the interests of the health and safety of the candidate and also will inform the Examiner of the candidate's situation in all cases.

Results and Certification

All ISTD examinations are performances at one moment in time, awarded in accordance to the requirements of the syllabus given for each examination.

Examiners return the results and report sheets as soon as possible after the examination. The report sheets for each candidate are individually checked within the Quality Assurance department for administrative accuracy. Under normal circumstances the report sheets will be issued to the teacher within 10 working days of the examination. Any errors found are corrected by the Examiner prior to further processing of the whole examination session and may therefore extend these timings, although the department will make every effort to process these as rapidly as possible.

All results are entered by dance and checked for achieving the minimum pass levels, per dance and in total, and correct levels of attainment against the total mark achieved.

Results are then cleared for certificate issue, which is undertaken by the Customer Services and Quality Assurance Department, and should be within 6 – 8 weeks of the examination. Copies of all report sheets and results are held on archive for reference.

Amateur Medal Tests

Introduction

Medal Tests up to Bronze only in American Smooth Ballroom Dance(2011), are designed to be accessible to any age group and seek to:

- Promote an appreciation and enjoyment of American Smooth Ballroom Dance, with a view to developing technical and artistic qualities
- Introduce an understanding of the various styles of American Smooth Ballroom Dance, the different rhythmic expressions and characterisations
- Motivate candidates and build self-confidence by providing carefully staged goals
- Provide a structured approach for teachers to measure the progress of individual candidates

The medal test system builds up progressively, ensuring that steps and skills learned at lower levels prepare for more complex and higher quality movements as the candidate makes progress. The Introductory Tests start at Social Dance Test and go through to Pre-Bronze. One Dance Tests are available at Social Dance Test, Pre-Bronze and Bronze levels. The Medal Series will in future progress from Bronze through to Gold. (Higher Awards are under development.)

An outline of the different levels for American Smooth dance examinations is given below and further detail is given in the Syllabus Content starting on page 8.

- 1 Introductory Tests - Social Dance Tests – 1, 2, 3, 4
Pre-Bronze Dance Tests – 1, 2, 3, 4
- 2 One Dance Tests – Social Dance
Pre-Bronze
Bronze
- 3 Medal Series - Bronze 1, 2
- 4 Silver, Gold and Higher Awards are under development

Method of Assessment/Mark Scheme for Amateur Medals and Tests

Each dance must be passed in order for the examination to be successful overall. Maximum marks allocated for each dance is 100. The marks for each dance are then aggregated and the overall result is indicated as a percentage as follows:

Honours	85% overall
Commended	75% overall
Pass	65
Unsuccessful on this occasion	0 – 64

All Amateur Medal Tests are assessed by the Examiner as above. However, for the Social Dance and Pre-Bronze Dance Tests, the teacher can choose whether the Examiner gives percentage marks or only an overall result of, 'Unsuccessful on this Occasion', 'Pass', 'Commended' or 'Honours'. The teacher should inform the Examiner at the beginning of the examination session which method of marking is preferred if entering candidates at these levels. The assessment of the candidate is carried out in the same way regardless of which choice is selected.

Entry Conditions and General Information

Age Divisions

Tests are conducted in five divisions:-

- 1 Juvenile division for candidates under 12 years of age
- 2 Junior division for candidates of 12 and under 16 years of age
- 3 Adult division for candidates of 16 and under 50 years of age
- 4 Senior division for candidates of 50 years of age and over
- 5 Student division for candidates of 16 years and over intending to become professional or professionals in another genre.*

- * Requirements are as for Adult division but a higher standard of dancing is expected. Holders of Student medals are not eligible to enter adult amateur medallist competitions.

Categories

Candidates have the following options when entering for amateur medal tests:

- 1 Solo Entry
Each candidate is assessed individually.
- 2 Couples Tests
The partnership is assessed as a couple but two report forms are issued. Both dancers receive a certificate and award. Candidates do not have to take the appropriate test individually but the tests must be taken in sequence. When entering 'Couples' medal tests on the timetable, teachers should bracket the names together and write 'C' for Couples as appropriate.

Prior Learning

No prior learning is required for the Introductory Tests.

Teachers of competitive dancers who wish to enter the Medal Test system but who have not taken a UK Dance Sport examination should apply to the relevant Faculty Chairperson, with a brief CV of the prospective candidate, together with a recommendation, so that their level of entry may be assessed.

Partnering

Candidates must provide their own partners who may be amateur or professional.

Time Allowances/Number of Candidates

Two candidates at a time		One candidate at a time	
Number of Dances	Time	Number of Dances	Time
1 dance	5 minutes	1 dance	3 minutes
2 dances	6 minutes	2 dances	5 minutes

Use of CD's

Teachers and candidates will use their own choice of music throughout the examinations. As a guide, music should be selected which does not contain cross phrasing and/or long introductions. Music operators should be seated at a discreet distance from the Examiner where possible.

Dress Requirements

Suitable American Smooth Ballroom Dance attire, which is appropriate to the age and gender of the candidate, should be worn with appropriate footwear.

Number Cards

Number cards should be worn on the back of all candidates for ease of identification.

Reasonable Adjustments may be made to the examinations where candidates have particular needs. Further details are given on page 3.

AMERICAN SMOOTH BALLROOM DANCE AMATEUR SYLLABUS OUTLINE

AMATEUR EXAMINATIONS

Amateur tests are conducted with the object of improving the standard of dancing. The award of merit and the certificate received by successful candidates, does not in any way qualify them to teach dancing, nor may they be used for advertising purposes.

General Information

- a) Suitable footwear **MUST** be worn.
- b) Conditions of examination entries and marks will be the same as for other Faculties within the Imperial Dance and Dance Sport Faculties.
- c) The timing for each test is as stated by the ISTD.
- d) Tests to be taken in sequence.

Syllabus Content for Amateur Medals

Introductory Tests(Two Dances)

SOCIAL DANCE TESTS – 1, 2, 3, 4

These tests may be taken by candidates of any age. Technical accuracy is not expected and Tests 2, 3, and 4 do not require a higher standard of dancing than Test 1. Dancing in time with the music and rhythmical expression are of primary importance.

PRE-BRONZE DANCE TESTS – 1, 2, 3, 4

These tests may be taken by candidates of any age. Dancing in time with the music, rhythmical expression and the beginnings of technical awareness are expected. Tests 2, 3, and 4 do not require a higher standard of dancing than Test 1.

Note: If a second test is taken at the same session, the dances must be different.

One Dance Tests

These are tests at Social, Pre-Bronze and Bronze standard only in American Smooth Ballroom Dance. They do not qualify the candidate to enter a full examination at a higher level.

Medal Series

BRONZE 1, 2

- a) Bronze 2 does not require a higher standard of dancing than Bronze 1.
- b) The Examiner will assess rhythmical ability and musicality, use and co-ordination of arms and feet, balance, control and visual appeal.
- c) In order to use the examination system to best advantage, candidates who have passed the Bronze test should be encouraged to take a second Bronze test showing two different dances and rhythms.

Student Division

Requirements are as for Adult division, but a higher standard of dancing is expected. Student division candidates may commence at Bronze level or at a higher level at the discretion of the teacher. A professional in any dance genre may take Student division tests. Holders of Student medals are NOT eligible to enter adult amateur medallist competitions

Higher Awards - Under development

American Smooth Ballroom Dance Requirements

Bronze 1	2 dances
Bronze 2	2 dances

AMERICAN SMOOTH DANCE STYLES AND SYLLABUS

A S FOXTROT

PRE-BRONZE

1. Forward Basic
2. Back Basic
3. Wing Turn
4. Solo Turning Chasse
5. Rock Basic – 3 shapes
6. Promenade Turn

BRONZE

7. Chasse Reverse and Chasse Natural Turns/Twinkles
8. Twinkles and Open Twinkles – A S ‘Cross Hesitation’ & Outside Chasse to PP
9. Travelling Bota Fogo shaped Twinkles forward and back
10. Promenade and Counter Promenade Runs
11. Zig-Zags/Grapevine
12. Quick Chasse in PP

A S WALTZ

PRE- BRONZE

1. Reverse Turn (Square or Box)
2. Natural Turn (Square or Box)
3. Balances in any Direction
4. Reverse Turn with Lady’s Underarm Turn to Right
5. Wing Turn
6. Half Squares and Twinkles (Change Steps)
7. Whisks to Left and Right
8. Twinkles in ‘Open Rocks’ shape

BRONZE

- 2A Another Balance
9. Zig-Zag/Grapevine
10. Demi-Rondes
11. Lady’s Reverse Pivots
12. Twinkles and Open Impetus in Zig-Zag pattern
13. Chasse from PP and developments

A S TANGO

PRE-BRONZE

1. Basic Step
2. Reverse Fallaway
3. Swivel Points
4. Left Side Break, Swivel, Closed Finish
5. A S Rock Turn
6. Promenade Turn to Fallaway Rock
7. Back Lunge, Closed Finish

BRONZE

- 4A. Solo Chasses with Lady's Solo Turns
8. Promenade Turn, Fallaway Twist
9. Reverse Outside Swivel to Wall, repeat to Centre
10. Promenade Left Whisk and Swivels
11. As no. 10 above, but Man dances Ronde from Left Whisk, Fallaway into Outside Swivel, Closed Finish
12. Reverse Promenade Link, Reverse Outside Swivel, Continuous Swivels, Closed Finish
13. Open Reverse Lady Outside, Open Finish, Closed Finish
14. Underturned Promenade Turn

A S VIENNESE WALTZ

PRE-BRONZE

1. Reverse Turns
2. Natural Turns
3. Change Steps
4. Balances

All steps which follow are grouped in 8 bar phrases

5. Reverse Turn, Cross Body Lead, Lady's Underarm Turn, Open Break to right, left and right with Lady's Underarm Turn on bar 6, Reverse Turn
6. Reverse Turn, Curtsey Point, Natural Turn, Curtsey Point
DEVELOPMENT Circular Runs to Right on bars 5 - 8

BRONZE

- 6A. Optional Leg Lift in no. 6
7. As bars 1 – 4 as no.5 above, Canter Rhythm and Balance Rhythm twice
8. Twinkles, CPP Leg Lift, PPCheck, Twinkles and Whisks
9. Bars 1 – 4 of no. 5 above, then as bars 5 – 8 of no. 7 above. Solo Turns
Outwards may then be danced as Man and Lady
10. NOT 8 BARS. From L Side Position or CP Position when facing Wall, Ronde Balance and Twinkle as bars 1 – 2 of the following 8 bars Reverse Turns