

Wyke

6TH FORM COLLEGE

D A N C E



Name:

laura.bulless@wyke.ac.uk

toni.knight@wyke.ac.uk





BTEC Dance vs. A-level Dance

	BTEC Dance	A-level Dance
Entry Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 4 in GCSE English ✓ Minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 4+ ✓ Successful completion of practical audition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 5 in GCSE English ✓ Minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 4+ ✓ Successful completion of practical audition
UCAS Points	<p>D* = 56</p> <p>D = 48</p> <p>M = 32</p> <p>P = 16</p>	<p>A* = 56</p> <p>A = 48</p> <p>B = 40</p> <p>C = 32</p> <p>D = 24</p> <p>E = 16</p>
Assessment Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 33% External Assessment; pre-set choreography task by the exam board to create a dance in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 50% Practical Exam; create 3 practical pieces and these are assessed live by a visiting

	<p>groups. Work is filmed and sent away for assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 67% Coursework; majority filmed practical assessments alongside reflective logbooks ✓ External assessment has the option to re-sit up to 3 times ✓ Modular; assessments are sat regularly over the course of 2years and accumulate into a grade 	<p>examiner. In your 2nd year. Only performed once on exam day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 50% Written Theory exam: 2 1/2hr written paper at end of 2nd year: short answer questions (25%) and three essays (75%) assessed in June of 2nd year
Content Covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Unit 3: Group Performance Workshop (externally assessed) ✓ Unit 34: Developing Skills and Techniques for Performance ✓ Unit 11: Street Dance Technique ✓ Unit 12: Contemporary Dance Technique ✓ Unit 22: Movement in Performance 	<p>Practical:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Solo in the style of a famous choreographer 2-3mins (approved list from the exam board) ✓ Quartet of either contemporary, ballet or jazz style 3-4mins ✓ Choreography a 3-4mins dance in response to a set question <p>Theory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Analyse 2 set study professional pieces in depth ✓ Analyse history and development of Rambert Dance company ✓ Understand development of contemporary Dance 2000+
Dance Genres	Wide variety of genres; including Contemporary, Jazz and Street	Predominantly Contemporary (option for Jazz and Ballet on some assessments)
Progression Option Notes	You do not need to be pursuing a career in dance to take either course. Likewise, both courses are widely accepted on dance-related progression options	
* Students can opt to study both subjects if they wish! *		

Written Transition Tasks

	3.
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Task 2: Analysis of Contemporary Practitioner

Beach Birds for Camera (1991) Choreographed By Merce Cunningham

- Cunningham said of his choreography for "Beach Birds", "It is all based on individual physical phrasing. The dancers don't have to be exactly together. They can dance like a flock of birds, when they suddenly take off." A work for eleven dancers, the rhythm for "Beach Birds" was much more fluid than other Cunningham dances, so that the sections could differ in length from performance to performance.
- John Cage composed the music, and painter Marsha Skinner provided the costumes and décor.
- The dancers were dressed identically in all white leotards and tights, with black gloves. Skinner's backcloth was a white scrim on which the light varied in colour and intensity, decided by a lighting plot that was devised using chance methods. While the timings did not relate to the dance structure, the gradual changes of light have been interpreted to imitate those that might occur from dawn to dusk on a beach. "Beach Birds" was adapted for film and called "Beach Birds for Camera."

<https://www.mercecunningham.org/the-work/choreography/beach-birds/>

Find out more about Merce Cunningham here <https://www.mercecunningham.org/about/merce-cunningham/>

Watch the excerpt of Merce Cunningham's 'Beach Bird for Camera' <https://vimeo.com/141096694>. This video shows the first 14 minutes of the piece, you will see two different physical settings. One being in a studio and another in a stage setting. Merce Cunningham was a pioneer of contemporary dance, he strived to experiment and collaborate to create original and unusual choreography that moved away from 'traditional' contemporary. His movement explored the idea of Ballet legs and Contemporary arms whilst being rhythmically random.

Listed in the first column are 4 key stylistic features of Merce Cunningham. Using the video above and through your own research, answer the questions below.

Key Features of Cunningham Style	Evidence from the Dance: Please describe the moment in <u>DETAIL</u>
Costumes: Describe and explain how the costumes show the theme	
Aural Setting: How does Merce Cunningham use the music created by John Cage? Does it enhance or distract the choreography?	
Use of Camera: The piece was created for camera. Describe the use of camera within the piece. E.g. Zoom on hands to highlight intricate movement	
Movement: The movement is intentionally random. It is created using the 'Chance Method'. What is this method and how did Merce Cunningham use it in dance works?	
Merce Cunningham was known as a collaborator; Identify and describe the collaboration between Cunningham and at least two other artists/composers	1. 2.

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Grade 6 Contemporary Dance Qualification Letter



Wyke Sixth Form College
Bricknell Avenue
Hull
HU5 4NT

Telephone: 01482 346347
Fax: 01482 473336
Text Phone: 01482 462424
www.wyke.ac.uk
email: office@wyke.ac.uk

Dear Prospective Student,

This year as part of your programme of study at Wyke, it is an expectation that every student engage in some form of extra-curricular activity to enrich both your experience as a student at Wyke and enhance your skillset and personal qualities ready for progression after college. As part of this extra-curricular offer, the Dance department are offering a brand new Contemporary Dance Qualification which also carries UCAS points. This will be taught one lesson a week and built into your academic timetable. You do not need to be studying a-level or BTEC Dance to do this qualification, but if you are opting for either of these subjects, it would be very complimentary for the practical element on these courses too. Over the course of the year, you will learn the set syllabus for the graded qualifications from NATD, which has been inspired by practitioners such as Graham, Cunningham and Limón, and lessons will develop both your contemporary technique and choreography skills. At the end of the academic year, we will then enter you for an appropriate graded qualification of Grade 6, Inter-foundation or Intermediate; each of which have a cost to be certified (see below).

Awarding Body: NATD

Qualification: Grade 6 (£50), Inter-foundation (£65), Intermediate (£70) – all carry UCAS points

Programme of Study: The specification covers different exercises for each grade, but each grade broadly covers these areas:

- Warm Up Exercises

- Barre Exercises
- Floor and Standing Exercises
- Set Amalgamations
- Examiner's dance
- Student Choreography
- Dance

If you are interested in taking this qualification, you must express your interest at enrolment so that your timetable can be built around this. If you have any questions, please email: laura.bulless@wyke.ac.uk

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Bulless', written in a light grey or blue ink.

Laura Bulless