

## *DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY AND DANCE PERFORMANCE*

### (DNC315115)

#### FEEDBACK FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

This year 51 DNC315115 students were examined state-wide from Don College, St Patrick's College, Launceston Church Grammar School, Newstead College, Launceston College, St Michael's Collegiate School, Hobart College and Friends' School.

While it is concerning that the number of students has steadily declined in recent years, there continues to be some outstanding candidates whose talents and skills reflect the expertise, patience and commitment of their teachers. On a positive note, numbers for 2019 are looking more favourable and as Co-Marking Coordinators, we look forward to welcoming new teachers and working together to provide students with the best possible experience in Dance.

To ensure our success into the future it is essential that we strive to work towards addressing a number of issues that continue to raise concern. First, we would like to emphasise the need for all teachers and students to be familiar with the guidelines for both practical and folio assessment. Presentation of folios this year was generally poor. Incorrect font, line spacing and font size was evident in many folios. Several folios did not have a word count, or the word count was incorrect. Word limits were increased 'at the top end' a few years ago to provide better writers a chance to excel, however many students used the '10% over rule' to no advantage.

Topic sentences were often elaborate, verbose and at time repetitious. The overuse of the 'synonym' option on Word, in many instances, detracted from the flow of students' writing and left markers confused. One and two sentence paragraphs do not reflect an 'A' standard response. Many students submitted folios that were compilations of non-synthesised short paragraphs that did not address the question logically or addressed topics that were not in the question.

The practical component of the exams saw a variety of interesting concepts explored in both solo and group works. All candidates met the minimum and maximum time requirements, however, some candidates needed to ensure that they used this time productively. It was duly noted when considerable time was wasted for extended entrances and exits, without any real relevance to the

choreographic intent. This year saw many candidates further experiment with original movement vocabulary. However, it is vital that this vocabulary is clear in communicating an idea, theme or concept and not abstracted too much where this is lost.

Overall improvement was observed in Criterion 8 which saw greater experimentation with structure, shape and design. However, it is suggested that the use of choreographic devices still need to be used, not just for effect, but to further develop the choreographic intent.

Performance skills were generally well applied again this year and significant improvement was seen in the personal grooming of most candidates. This certainly assisted in providing an overall polish to the performance.

We strongly encourage all candidates to continually reflect upon their choreographic process and to consider feedback given by their peers and teachers to further improve their work.