

RINCE TUATHA NUA GRADE EXAMS

Grade exams are an excellent way for dancers to mark their progress and prepare for their teacher certifications. Grade exams may be taken by dancers at any age. The exams are all practical or oral (no written sections). All dancers must start with the Grade 1 exam. AT and TCRG candidates will receive credit if they have passed all eight sections of the grade exams.

Cost: \$25 per section (There may be additional fees, to cover the venue and examiners.)

Sections:

Dances—each candidate must be able to perform the dances on the list for that grade; 80 points (Grades 1-4: 20 points per dance, Grades 5-8: 16 points per dance)

Music—candidates must be able to identify the music used for the dances in that grade; 5 points

Theory—candidates must be able to answer three randomly selected questions in that grade; 15 points

History/Gaelic—candidates must be able to answer the questions in that grade; extra credit—2 points each

*There can be many ways to pronounce words/phrases in Gaelic, we are giving only one option; other turns of phrase or pronunciations are not incorrect.

GRADE 1

Dances

Beginner Reel
Beginner Light Jig
Beginner Slip Jig
Beginner Single Jig

Music

Each dancer must be able to identify and name the tune from the above dances.

Theory Questions

1. How many bars of music are played before you start to dance?
8 Bars of Music
2. What must you do with your feet at all times while you are dancing?
Turn them out
3. What way must your toes be pointed while dancing?
Pointed down
4. Where should your arms be at all times while dancing?
By your sides
5. What way do you dance your lead around in all dances?
In a circle
6. Why is a sidestep called a side step?
Because you dance it to the side
7. What is a false start?
When you start to dance before the correct time

Gaelic & History

1. How do you say “hello” and “good-bye” in Gaelic?
Hello Dia duit Dia dhuit (jee-uh gwitch)
Reply: Dia's Muire duit (jee-uh is MWEE-ruh gwitch)
Good-bye Slán leat (slawn)
2. How many counties are in Ireland?
32 counties—26 in the Republic of Ireland and 6 in Northern Ireland

Grade 2

Dances

Intermediate Reel

Intermediate Light Jig

Intermediate Slip Jig/Single Jig

Intermediate Treble Jig

Music

Each dancer must be able to identify and name the tune from the above dances.

Theory Questions

1. What way should you hold yourself while dancing?

Stand up straight, shoulders back, arms by your side and feet turned out

2. What part of your feet do you dance on?

On your toes/the balls of your feet

3. What do you do when the music starts to play?

Count the 8 bars of music before you start to dance

4. What is the difference between solo dancing and figure dancing?

Solo dancing is done on your own and figure dancing is done with 2 or more people

5. What does Rince Tuatha Nua mean in English?

A new dance organization

6. How many grades (levels) does RTN have and what are they called?

There are 6 grades and they are called:

(1) Beginner

(2) Intermediate

(3) Novice

(4) Prizewinner

(5) Preliminary Champion

(6) Open Champion

7. How many people dance in a 2 Hand Reel and a 3 Hand Reel?

2 People in a 2 Hand Reel and 3 People in a 3 Hand Reel

Gaelic & History

1. How do you count to ten in Gaelic?

One aon (hay-un)

Two dó (doh)

Three trí (tree)

Four ceathair (cah-hir)

Five cúig (coo-ig)

Six sé (shay)

Seven seacht (shocked)

Eight ocht (hukt)

Nine naoi (knee)

Ten deich (deh)

2. Name the four provinces in Ireland.

Leinster, Munster, Ulster, Connaught

Grade 3

Dances

Novice Reel
Novice Slip Jig
Intermediate Hornpipe
Walls of Limerick

Music

Each dancer must be able to identify and name the tune from the above dances.

Theory Questions

1. What is the time signature of the Single Jig?
It is 6/8 timing
2. What is the time signature of the Slip Jig?
It is 9/8 timing
3. What music is the Walls of Limerick danced to?
It is danced in Reel timing
4. What type of dance is the Walls of Limerick?
It is a progressive dance
5. How many movements are there in the walls of Limerick?
There are 4 movements in the Walls of Limerick
6. How many people are required to perform the Walls of Limerick?
4 people
7. What is the time signature of the Reel?
It is 2/4 or 4/4 timing
8. Name the movements of the Walls of Limerick?
(a) Advance and Retire
(b) Half Right and Left
(c) Dance with opposite
(d) Dance Around

Gaelic & History

1. How do you say “please”, “thank you” and “you're welcome” in Gaelic?
Please le do thoil (leh duh hull)
Thank you Go raibh maith agat (gur-uh muh HAG-ut)
You're welcome Tá fáilte romhat (taw Fawl-cheh ROH-ut)
2. Who was the first high king in Ireland?
Brian Boru

Grade 4

Dances

Novice Treble Jig
Novice Hornpipe
Novice Treble Reel
4 Hand Reel

Music

Each dancer must be able to identify and name the tune from the above dances.

Theory Questions

1. What is the difference between a Round dance and a Progressive dance?
A round dance has a finish but a progressive dance continues until the music finishes
2. What type of dance is the 4 Hand Reel?
It is a round dance
3. How many figures are there in the 4 Hand Reel and name them?
There are 2 Figures:
(a) Figure of 8 and rings of 3
(b) Ladies Chain
4. Where do tops stand in position in the 4 Hand Reel?
They stand with their back to the music
5. How many chains are there in the 4 Hand Reel?
There are 2 chains:
(a) Right and Left chain
(b) Ladies chain
6. What is the time signature of the Single Jig?
It is 6/8 timing
7. What is the time signature of the Hornpipe?
It is 4/4 timing
8. Name the movements of the Body of the 4 Hand Reel?
(a) Square
(b) Four Sevens
(c) Hands Across
(d) Down the Centre
(e) Right and Left Chain

Gaelic & History

1. How do you say “welcome” and “well done” in Gaelic?
Welcome Failte (Fawl-cheh)
Well Done Maith thú (MAH too)
2. What are the capitols of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland?
Republic of Ireland: Dublin Northern Ireland: Belfast

Grade 5

Dances

Prizewinner Reel
Prizewinner Slip Jig
Prizewinner Treble Jig
St. Patrick's Day
Fairy Reel

Music

Each dancer must be able to identify and name the tune from the above dances.

Theory Questions

1. How many sets and steps are there in the St Patrick's Day?
There are 2 sets and 2 steps
2. What differences are there between the steps and sets?
Both sets are dance right and left foot but the 2nd step is only danced on the right foot
3. How many bars of music are in the Step and set of the St Patrick's Day?
There are 8 bars of music in the Step and 14 bars of music in the Set
4. What type of dance is the Fairy Reel?
It is a progressive dance
5. What is the last movement of the Fairy Reel?
Advance Retire and Pass Through
6. What is the time signature of the Single Jig?
It is 6/8 timing
7. What is the time signature of St Patrick's Day?
It is 6/8 timing
8. Name the opening 4 movements of the Fairy Reel?
*(a) Advance and Retire
(b) Rings
(c) Advance and Retire
(d) Rings*

Gaelic & History

1. How do you say "Happy St. Patrick's Day" in Gaelic?
Lá Fhéile Pádraig (law Ale-yeh Pawd-rig)
2. Who is the patron saint of Ireland and what is his feast day?
St. Patrick's Day is March 17th

Grade 6

Dances

Prizewinner Hornpipe
Blackbird
Job of Journey Work
Harvest Time Jig

Music

Each dancer must be able to identify and name the tune from the above dances.

Theory Questions

1. How many sets and steps are there in the Blackbird?
There are 2 sets and 2 steps
2. How many bars of music are in the Step and Set of the Blackbird?
There are 7.5 bars of music in the Step and 15 bars of music in the Set
3. How many bars of music are in the Step and Set of the Job of Journey Work?
There are 8 bars of music in the Lead and 14 bars of music in the Set
4. What type of dance is the Harvest Time Jig?
It is a progressive dance
5. What is the last movement of the Harvest Time Jig?
Advance Retire and Pass Through
6. What is the formation of the Harvest Time Jig?
Two lines of three dancers facing each other; the gent is in the middle of the line of three with a lady to either side of him
7. What is the time signature of the Single Jig?
It is 6/8 timing
8. What is the time signature of the Blackbird?
It is 2/4 timing

Gaelic & History

1. How do you say “reel”, “jig” and “hornpipe” in Gaelic?
Reel cor (core)
Jig port (port)
Hornpipe cornphiopa (korn-FEE-puh)
2. What is a banshee?
From the Irish bean sí (ban sive), or woman of the fairy, a banshee is a fairy woman who begins to wail or keen if someone is about to die.

Grade 7

Dances

Prelim/Open Reel
Prelim/Open Slip Jig
Prelim/Open Treble Jig
Garden of Daisies
Jockey to the Fair
Humours of Bandon

Music

Each dancer must be able to identify and name the tune from the above dances.

Theory Questions

1. How many bars of music are in the Step and Set of the Garden of Daisies?
There are 8 bars in the Step and 16 in the Set
2. How many bars of music are in the Step and Set of the Jockey to the Fair?
There are 8 bars of music in the Step and 14 in the Set
3. What is the time signature of the Jockey to the Fair?
It is 6/8 timing or Jig timing
4. What is the time signature of the Garden of Daisies?
It is 4/4 timing or Hornpipe timing
5. What type of dance is the Humours of Bandon?
It is a round dance
6. How many figures are in the Humours of Bandon and name them?
There are 3 figures:
 - (a) *Advance through Centre*
 - (b) *Centre Meet*
 - (c) *Ladies Chain*
7. Name another 2 ceili dances with the movement Ladies chain?
4 Hand Reel, 8 Hand Reel, St Patrick's Day, Morris Reel, High Caul Cap
8. Name the name of the music used in the 3 Tunes?
 - (a) *Haste to the Wedding (Jig)*
 - (b) *Leslies Hornpipe (Hornpipe)*
 - (c) *The German Beau (Reel)*

Gaelic & History

1. How do you introduce yourself in Gaelic?
_____ is ainm dom (_____ iss anim dyum) = _____ is my name
2. What does "An Gorta Mór" mean? When did An Gorta Mór begin and end?
The Great Hunger (or the Great Famine) lasted from 1845-1852.

Grade 8

Dances

Prelim/Open Hornpipe
Prelim/Open modern set dance in jig timing
Prelim/Open modern set dance in hornpipe timing
3 Sea Captains
King of the Fairies
The Hunt

Music

Each dancer must be able to identify and name the tune from the above dances.

Theory Questions

1. How many bars of music are in the Step and Set of the King of the Fairies?
There are 8 bars in the Step and 16 in the Set
2. How many bars of music are in the Step and Set of the 3 Sea Captains?
There are 8 bars of music in the Step and 20 in the Set
3. What is the time signature of the King of the Fairies?
It is 4/4 timing or Hornpipe timing
4. What is the time signature of the Garden of Daisies?
It is 4/4 timing or Hornpipe timing
5. What is the only ceili dance to start with a figure movement?
The Sweets of May
6. Name the 2 dances with stamp and clap?
The High Caul Cap and the 3 Tunes
7. How many bars of music is there in the Body of the 4 Hand Reel?
40 bars
8. Name 3 ceili dances with a place name?
*Walls of Limerick, Rakes of Mallow, Gates of Derry, Siege of Ennis, Siege of Carrick
Glencar Reel, Waves of Tory, Humours of Bandon, Antrim Reel, Bridge of Athlone*

Gaelic & History

1. How do you say “how are you” in Gaelic, and reply that you are well?
*Conas atá tú? (co-nas tah tu)
Tá mé go maith (ta may go mah)*
2. What year did the Republic of Ireland gain its independence from Great Britain?
In 1922 Ireland became a dominion of the British Empire. Full legislative independence was granted in 1931 and the state became officially known as Ireland in 1937.