



NATD

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
TEACHERS OF DANCING**

LEVEL 3 CERTIFICATE FOR DANCE TEACHING ASSISTANT



© The National Association of Teachers of Dancing limited, 2026
National Association of Teachers of Dancing

National House,
Turnfields Court,
Thatcham,
Berkshire,
RG19 4PT
+44 01623 823811
exams@natd.org.uk

**CLICK OR SCAN TO
DOWNLOAD YOUR
RESOURCE PACK
HERE**





TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE QUALIFICATION SUMMARY

Aims and Objectives

3 Units of Study

Qualification content

Grading

TQT

UCAS Tariff Points

ACCESS AND REGISTRATION

Entry Criteria

NATD Membership

Registration process

Further training

Prior Learning

UNIT 1 SAFE DANCE PRACTICE

Risk assessment

Responsibilities for younger students

Understanding a Healthy Lifestyle

General responsibilities

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Grading

UNIT 2 OBSERVATION, ANALYSIS AND REFLECTION

Observation, Analysis and Reflection

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Grading

UNIT 3 DANCE TEACHING METHODS AND DISCUSSION

Choreography

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Grading

Awarding the Qualification





LEVEL 3 CERTIFICATE FOR DANCE TEACHING ASSISTANT

THE QUALIFICATION

Qualification Title	Ofqual Qualification Number	CCEA
NATD Level 3 Certificate Dance Teaching Assistant	610/3446/0	610/3446/0

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the NATD Level 3 Certificate for Dance Teaching Assistant is for candidates to acquire knowledge, skills and understanding alongside basic syllabus requirements including safe dance practice for anyone preparing to work as a dance teaching assistant.

Dance teaching assistants support dance teachers in class situations in the private/state and community sectors, usually helping to support groups of learners for a specified period under the supervision of a qualified dance teacher.

The qualification has a specific focus on promoting safe working environments for students and assistant teachers, developing understanding of requirements for dance teachers, support the development of class content to engage students, develop observation skills and reflective practice.

THE THREE UNITS OF STUDY:

- **Unit 1** Safe Dance Practice
- **Unit 2** Observation and Reflection
- **Unit 3** Teaching methods - Includes a 15 minute live discussion to strengthen communication skills.

QUALIFICATION CONTENT

The qualification consists of two portfolio units, the third unit is submitted video footage and a live discussion.

GRADING

- **Unit 1** Pass or Fail
- **Unit 2** Pass or Fail
- **Unit 3** Pass, Merit, Distinction

Overall grade is based on Unit 3 result





Total qualification time (TQT) guided learning hours, credits

Overall total credits 13				
Total Qualification Time (TQT) 130 hrs to include Guided Learning Hours 30 hrs				
Unit No.	Unit Title	Credits	Study Hours	GLH
3.1	Safe Dance Practice	3	30	10
3.2	Dance Teaching Observation Logs, Analysis and Reflection	6	60	10
3.3	Dance Pedagogy and Live Discussion	4	40	10

UCAS TARIFF POINTS

The NATD Level 3 Certificate for a Dance Teaching Assistant carries UCAS Tariff points. Many universities, colleges and conservatoires use UCAS Tariff points to determine whether an applicant meets the entry requirements for a course or programme of study.

The number of points is determined by the grade achieved (i.e. Pass, Merit or Distinction), please confirm the current banding when required.

Entry Criteria

Pre-requisites

- The minimum age for candidates registering on the qualification is 16 yrs.
- Candidates must have a minimum:

Theatrical Genre Grade 5 / Senior Bronze

either with NATD or another recognised Awarding Organisation

OR

Ballroom Styles Grade 5 /GOLD & above

(Including Alternative Rhythms, Ballroom, Freestyle, Latin American, Line Dancing, Rock n Roll, Sequence & Street)

OR

A vocational qualification at Level 2 in Performing Arts or similar may also be acceptable.





REGISTRATION PROCESS

- Teachers must not commence the qualification before an application has been processed by Head Office.
- To enrol, the teacher should submit the application form to Head Office, by emailing exams@natd.org.uk.
- When approval has been granted, the teacher will be notified and a request for the payment of temporary student membership will be made. This remains valid for the duration of their studies.
- Upon receipt of payment, Student Membership will be activated, and a membership number will be issued.
- All paperwork will be processed, the teacher contacted regarding starting the course and the portfolio submission date. Submission should be between 6 months and 12 months from the start date.
- The teacher will be deemed the mentor and will oversee the submission.
- Following submission and assessment, the final invoice will be sent to the teacher.
- Once the payment has been received, the report forms and certificate will be sent.

NATD STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

All candidates are provided with temporary NATD Student Membership which gives discounted access to NATD syllabi material and CPD opportunities in support of their studies.

Student membership will be available to all candidates upon completion of the qualification.

Should you choose not to complete the portfolio, Student Membership will cease.

PROGRESSION TO FURTHER QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

On successful completion of this qualification candidates may wish to progress to the Level 4 Diploma in Dance Teaching/ Musical Theatre or other forms of professional training, study or employment.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Recognised Prior Learning is not applicable for this qualification.





UNIT 1

ONLINE PORTFOLIO- SAFE DANCE PRACTICE

This unit focuses on safe dance practice, health and safety in dance and the roles and responsibilities of dance teaching assistants.

A) Risk assessment

This includes consideration of venue safety, appropriate clothing and footwear, preventative action, active measures and the responsible person.

B) Responsibilities for younger students

As a dance teaching assistant, it is likely that candidates will be responsible for groups of younger students, which under teacher supervision, may include looking after their safety and wellbeing before, during and after a lesson. Areas of responsibility are considered

C) Understanding the importance of a healthy lifestyle

This section concerns examples and short explanations about aspects of a healthy lifestyle with relevance for candidates and the learners with whom they work.

D) General responsibilities as a dance teaching assistant

Candidates should be aware of the following and the implications for Good Practice as a Dance Teaching Assistant.

- The NATD Code of Practice
- The NATD Safeguarding Policy
- The NATD Social Media Policy

DOWNLOAD
YOUR
RESOURCE
PACK HERE





UNIT 1 LEARNING OUTCOMES WITH ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Learning Outcomes By unit completion, candidates will:	Assessment Criteria Candidates will:
1. Understand risk identification and management in a dance environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. carry out a risk assessment of a dance teaching venue 2. describe how to best manage the risks 3. know the person responsible for managing the risks
2. Understand their responsibilities for the care and safety of younger students	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. describe specific tasks undertaken in their role and how to complete them safely
3. Understand the importance of nutrition for a dancer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. evaluate the importance of hydration and healthy food for a dancer
4. Understand the importance of safeguarding for learners and instructors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. carry out accurate and timely safeguarding processes within own responsibilities' 2. describe Good Practice in dance teaching methods and instructor conduct 3. explain the importance of adherence to the NATD guidance around the use of all social media and filming of all learners

GRADING

This unit is graded pass/not achieved. All learning outcomes must be met to the required standard for a pass to be awarded.





UNIT 2

ONLINE PORTFOLIO - OBSERVATION LOGS, ANALYSIS AND REFLECTION

Candidates observe 6 hours of live dance teaching sessions which should reflect differing ages and abilities, preferably observing more than one teacher.

Candidates are encouraged to observe a range of ages and abilities to develop their understanding of varying teaching strategies, the use of positive reinforcement and encouragement of all students.

The analysis of class timings, the use of syllabus and non-syllabus work, the awareness of different styles of music should be noted and will form the basis of the reflection for each class.

The candidate may be assisting in the class and should note their role, whether they felt that they were successful in achieving the required aims and a reflection on their performance.





UNIT 2 LEARNING OUTCOMES WITH ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Learning Outcomes By unit completion, candidates will:	Assessment Criteria Candidates will:
1. Be able to observe and record dance teaching	1.1 record observations of teaching practice effectively
2. Understand a variety of teaching methods and learning strategies	2.1 evaluate the effectiveness of observed teaching techniques. 2.2 evaluate the effectiveness of different learning strategies on various groups of pupils
3. Understand effective class management	3.1 evaluate strategies for effective class management 3.2 evaluate the effectiveness of the use of resources within a class
4. Understand their role as an assistant in a dance teaching environment	4.1 evaluate effective ways to fulfil the role as a dance teaching assistant
5. Reflect on their development	5.1 Explain the importance of personal future behaviour in their role as a dance teaching assistant

GRADING

This unit is graded pass/not achieved. All learning outcomes must be met to the required standard for a pass to be awarded.





UNIT 3

DANCE TEACHING METHODS AND DISCUSSION

In this unit, the candidate will demonstrate understanding and teaching methods for two syllabus levels in their chosen genre.

CHOREOGRAPHY

Candidates will also devise one short exercise / routine suitable for each of their chosen syllabus levels.

Choose 1 syllabus level from each option (a) and (b)

Theatrical Genres including Freestyle and Street

- a. Class or Preliminary or Grade 1
- b. Grade 2 or Grade 3

Ballroom Genres including Freestyle and Street

- a. Rainbow, PSDT up to and including Pre-Bronze
- b. Bronze or Silver

Candidates will submit their two exercises / routines either in written or video form with the portfolio. The candidate should demonstrate the exercises.

Through a discussion via live stream, candidates will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the purpose of syllabus exercises together with basic teaching methods and practices.

This will be a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 30 minutes.





UNIT 3 LEARNING OUTCOMES WITH ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Learning Outcomes By unit completion, candidates will:	Assessment Criteria Candidates will:
1. Demonstrate an ability to analyse dance vocabulary	1.1 Select relevant content and/or vocabulary suitable to the learners' age and ability 1.2 Analyse specific vocabulary and identify build-ups and progression
2. Demonstrate an ability to arrange non- syllabus training exercises to support learners' development	2.1 Describe how they would vary their 2 exercises to suit differing abilities within a group 2.2 Describe how their 2 choreographed exercises include suitable and engaging non-syllabus work for the learner
3. Be able to communicate effectively	3.1 Be able to describe relevant syllabus elements





GRADING

This unit will be graded Pass, Merit or Distinction. The unit grading criteria are as follows:

Pass

The candidate's understanding of basic teaching skills was satisfactory overall with some areas of weakness compensated by areas of strength. The candidate could describe basic teaching techniques with an overall satisfactory level of communication. The candidate was at times engaged and motivated in a satisfactory way, but it was not always sustained throughout. A depth of knowledge was not sustained across the selected syllabi.

Merit

The candidate's understanding of basic teaching skills was good overall with only a few areas of weakness. The candidate could describe basic teaching techniques related to the chosen syllabus in a clear and coherent manner with pleasing confidence. The candidate was engaged and motivated with only minor lapses of knowledge. Overall, the candidate was able to give thoughtful insight into their strengths and areas for improvement across the selected syllabi.

Distinction

The candidate's basic understanding and description of teaching skills were excellent overall. An excellent level of communication was maintained throughout, with a consistent and very good level of engagement and motivation. Detailed analysis of the required syllabus demonstrated giving comprehensive responses to the questions asked. The choreographed exercises showed an understanding of working with different abilities.





MAKING AN OVERALL JUDGEMENT ABOUT THE UNIT

Examiners will award an overall grade for the unit based on their judgement about the quality of each learning outcome. They will match quality of work against the assessment criteria for each learning outcome and the grading descriptor to make a decision about the grade to be awarded for that learning outcome.

The overall grade for the unit will be calculated as follows, based on the grade awarded for each learning outcome.

LO1	LO2	LO3	Overall
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Merit	Pass	Pass	Pass
Merit	Merit	Pass	Merit
Merit	Merit	Merit	Merit
Distinction	Merit	Pass	Merit
Distinction	Pass	Pass	Pass
Distinction	Distinction	Pass	Merit
Distinction	Distinction	Merit	Distinction
Distinction	Merit	Merit	Merit
Distinction	Distinction	Distinction	Distinction

AWARDING THE QUALIFICATION

The qualification result will be graded Pass, Merit, and Distinction from the grade awarded in Unit 3.

