

Why can't we just prepare exams in regular classes as we have in the past?

1. We want to be able to give students more choice. This way students only attend the levels in which they want to complete high level exams. It also means you only pay for the classes you need and we are only working with a group of students highly motivated to complete that particular exam.

2. To complete these advanced level dance exams students need to be attending more than twice a week to have the required fitness and technique. Most studios have students attend a minimum of 4-5 times a week by this level. Many dance full time. Other teachers cannot believe we put on so many successful eisteddfod items and get so many through exams when we have only have students twice a week. It's very hard!

3. All these exams are at such a high level that there is almost nothing we can achieve upstairs - they all require the big studio so we need a day when no other classes are running and the big space is available the whole time.

4. Advanced level exams can run 60-70mins or more. It has become impossible to practise up to 4 levels doing hour long exams all in one 45min class as we have been trying to do on Fridays. Tess did so many hours of unpaid work to try and get the exam work together this year as there simply was not the time or space to do it on Fridays.

5. High level exams often have only a couple of students per grade. In the performance program, with bigger classes, we can afford to offer very heavily discounted classes to the point where you get several classes free. We can't afford to do this for exam classes where we need to offer hour long classes with specialised teachers in much smaller groups to cover the work.

6. Having this extra time each week will mean we can have the CSTD exams BEFORE the September holidays. Dancers will be fit from a full term of dancing when they enter the exam and you won't have to pay for 4 days of holiday classes and we will all actually have a holiday on the long weekend in October HURRAH!

7. Having General Non Exam jazz and tap classes on Friday will give us more time to work on Eisteddfod dances, teach new material and have guests in to really extend the students. It also means students can continue with a style of dance without feeling they have to sit an exam to be in the class.

8. Students dancing three times a week will improve enormously in strength and technique.

9. Older students who have finished all their examinations will still have classes to attend.