



GLOBAL  
DANCE  
QUALIFICATION

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## YOUR GUIDE TO GDQ

WELCOME TO  
WAIHEKE

We are very excited to be bringing the Global Dance Qualification Jazz/ Modern Syllabus or GDQ to Dance Out Loud Waiheke.

This syllabus will replace what you know as modern levels with ISTD and I am sure the dancers will find this new teaching method and content to be fun, refreshing, challenging and inspiring.

GDQ pulls from the most well respected dance technique methods from around the world and aligns with world industry standards of what is expected from students of all ages.

One of the benefits of GDQ is that the syllabus requirements are much more tangible and clear than they used to be. All parents will be able to access a requirements info sheet for each level so they can clearly understand and, if they wish, help their children practice at home.

We implemented this syllabus into our Wanaka school 2 years ago after the syllabus was launched at Kairos and developed and endorsed by Top International Teacher/ Choreographer Adam Parsons and Neverland Studios Director, Ash Habgood.

We have noticed our Wanaka Jazz students have up-skilled and show more dynamic and pace in their Jazz dancing and the examination process has been professional and informative and encouraging for our students, receiving valuable feedback to keep striving.



## WHAT SETS GDQ APART?

- Flexibility and strength plays an important role.
- Exams are focused on technical ability rather than retaining too many steps at a young age so teachers are freed up to work on skill rather than drilling repetitive exercises.
- Syllabus is dynamic and fun and replicates movements that are demanded in the professional dance world.
- New exercises are released annually so teachers have a larger repertoire to use in classes and students are always exposed to fresh ideas.
- While there is a core technical belief and philosophy, different techniques are used so dancers grow with an open mind to different approaches.
- Choreography is a collaborative effort from choreographers of all different backgrounds to ensure students get a broad set of influences.
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### **EXAMINATIONS**

Examinations will take place around the end of Term 2, after the GDQ intensives ( a weekend day of workshops to clean and polish the work) which is compulsory for all exam students.

- Examinations will assess all aspects of the dancer and dancers will achieve either Pass, Bronze, Silver, or Gold depending on their standard.  
Mark sheets will clearly show where the students need to improve so parents and students can monitor their progress over the years.
- Within the same class, a student can also opt to sit the exam with their friends but choose to be marked as a " dancer assessment". This means they are still developing the technical skills required in the level and are therefore are marked more on completion, knowledge & self awareness and performance. This facilitates those students, that have started modern/ jazz dance a little older but means they can still progress with their peers/class.



## LEVELS

The GDQ levels are split into 4 divisions; Foundations, Development, Extension and Advanced.

GDQ recognises that students at each age group have different priorities. GDQ aims to work with the natural behavioural and physical characteristics of each age. This ensures that the dancers are progressing in a way that works with their physical capabilities and also caters to the type of movements, and goals that students will find interesting and fun.

These are the focuses of each division.

**Foundations:** Flexibility, confidence, co-ordination, strength and fun!

**Development:** Detail, technique, poise and dynamic.

**Extension:** Extending technique, increasing intricacy of vocabulary, developing depth of performance.

**Advanced:** Performance maturity, accuracy, muscle balance and risk taking.



## LEVELS GUIDE : Ages are a guideline only



PREVIOUS SYLLABUS LEVEL	GDQ LEVEL	AGE SUGGESTION
2020 Grade 1 ISTD	Foundation 1	5 years
2020 Grade 1 ISTD	Foundation 2	6 years
2020 Grade 2 ISTD( both classes)	Foundation 3	7/8 years
	Foundation 4	8 years
2020 Grade 3 ISTD	Development 1	9 /10years
	Development 2	10 years
2020 Grade 4 ISTD	Development 3	11/12 years

2020 Grade 6 ISTD	Development 4	12/13 years
2020 Intermediate Found. ISTD	Extension 1	13/14 years
	Extension 2	14 years
	Extension 3	15 years
	Advanced 1	16 years
	Advanced 2	17 years
	Advanced 3	18 years



We are so excited to teach GDQ at the studio, and we know that our students are going to thrive on this programme.

Please note your 2020 ISTD levels are listed in the grid above with the GDQ class equivalent that is on the timetable for you to attend.

With this being a new syllabus, my aim is to keep the original 2020 jazz classes together, so they still dance with their friends, and I have predicted the GDQ levels to be as such. I can also alter these levels as I start teaching them, if necessary, but I am pretty sure these levels will give them a great start in their journey of learning and developing through the GDQ syllabus.

Please see also the breakdown of classes genre by genre document.

This will outline where the syllabus classes are, and then the additional jazz skills ( or jazz extension as it was called with Louise) for your age. It is highly recommended from Development classes to attend both the syllabus class and the skills class weekly, for optimal improvement and results.

Foundation levels do not require an extra skills class weekly.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or email us at:

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