

GRADE EXAMS

Grade examinations are different from competitions in that each dancer receives individual attention, as they perform each dance on their own. The examinations are intended and equally suitable for both dancers who compete regularly and for the very many who are not competition orientated.

In all there are 12 grades plus a preliminary grade with different dances specified. Each grade must be passed before a dancer may attempt the next grade. Dancers are given a certificate for each grade passed as well as detailed written feedback, which highlights good points as well as the things that need to be improved. When all 12 grades are completed, dancers receive "The Diploma of the Irish Dancing Commission".

GRADE	REQUIRED DANCES
Preliminary	<i>Easy Reel or Easy Light Double Jig</i>
Grade 1	<i>Basic Reel and Light Double Jig</i>
Grade 2	<i>Basic Slip-Jig and Single Jig</i>
Grade 3	<i>Primary Reel and Basic Heavy Jig</i>
Grade 4	<i>Primary Slip-Jig and "St Patrick's Day"</i>
Grade 5	<i>Advanced Reel, Basic Hornpipe and Walls of Limerick</i>
Grade 6	<i>Advanced Slip-Jig, "The Blackbird" and Siege of Ennis</i>
Grade 7	<i>Advanced Heavy Jig, "Garden of Daisies" and The Four-Hand Reel</i>
Grade 8	<i>Advanced Hornpipe, "Job of Journey work" and Humours of Bandon</i>
Grade 9	<i>Two set-dances, one in 6/8 time and the other in 2/4 or 4/4 time (which are not traditional dances) and The High Cauleed Cap</i>
Grade 10	<i>Two set-dances, one in 6/8 time and the other in 2/4 or 4/4 time (which are not traditional dances) and The Eight-Hand Jig</i>
Grade 11	<i>Reel, Slip Jig, Heavy Jig, "The Blackbird", "St Patrick's Day" plus two modern set-dances selected by the examiner from a list of five submitted by the candidate (different from those in Grade 10) and the ceili dances; The Eight-Hand Reel and the Harvest-time Jig</i>
Grade 12	<i>Light Double Jig, Single Jig, Hornpipe, "Job of Journeywork", "Garden of Daisies", plus two modern set-dances selected by the examiner from a list of five submitted by the candidate (different from those in Grades 10 and 11) and the ceili dances the Morris Reel and The Sixteen-Hand Reel.</i>

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Only basic steps may be danced in Grades 1, 2, 3 and in the preliminary Grade.
2. The number of bars of music to be danced for all reels, jigs and hornpipes is 40.
3. Set-dances in Grades 4, 5 & 6 must be performed in the traditional style and manner.

4. From Grade 7 upwards only non-traditional sets can be danced. Once performed a set-dance cannot be repeated in a higher grade.
5. The same set-dance must not be performed in more than one of the Grades from 7 to 12 inclusive.
6. A dancer must take all grades in order, beginning with Grade 1, the preliminary Grade being optional. However, any number of consecutive grades may be taken on the same occasion.
7. Candidates must know (orally & practically) all céilí dances from the book "Ár Rincí Foirne" specified for Grades 5 – 12 inclusive.
8. Dance costumes should not be worn at what are examinations, not competitions.
9. Grade 9 may not be taken under 16 years of age, and Grade 10 under 17 years.
10. A special application form will apply for Grades 11 and 12.
11. Candidates must be in their 19th year to sit Grade 11 and in their 20th year to sit Grade 12.