



Focus on Exams

Issue 1 – February 2016

Welcome to *Focus on Exams*, the RAD publication dedicated entirely to exams matters. This electronic edition features key news and updates, while information on successful Solo Seal candidates, and new and retiring examiners, will be included in the next printed copy (June 2016).

In the meantime, look out for your free exams poster in the February issue of *Dance Gazette*, where each reader will receive one of four different designs!

Let us know how we are doing – we are always pleased to receive feedback about any aspect of RAD exams. Fill in our [new online survey](#) or e-mail exams@rad.org.uk.



Specifications and syllabus publications

The updated *Examinations Information, Rules and Regulations* and *Specifications* documents, valid from 1 January 2016, are now available [on our website](#). These include important details about entries, exam content and marking, what happens on the day, and results and certificates. [A summary of amendments](#) to syllabus and sheet music publications is also available.

Regulatory changes

There are two important recent developments concerning examinations regulation.

First, the **Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF)**, on which many RAD exams were



Fiona Campbell Examinations Bursary

We are delighted to announce the **Fiona Campbell Examinations Bursary**, made possible as a result of a generous legacy left to us by the former RAD teacher, examiner, Trustee and lifelong friend to the Academy.

Teachers can apply on behalf of deserving candidates for a grant amounting to the value of the candidates' next exam.

The application process is very simple – the teachers have 150 words to explain why their candidate deserves a bursary. Applications are made via a simple [online form](#) and will be read by a panel of judges. There are no published criteria – candidates will be chosen based on the panel's subjective response to the applications, up to the total value of

placed, was withdrawn on 30 September 2015 and replaced by the **Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF)** on 1 October.

More flexible and inclusive, the RQF brings together all regulated qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, including GCSEs, A-levels, vocational (work-based) qualifications, and graded exams.

We are removing all references to the QCF, as well as the older National Qualifications Framework (NQF), from exams documentation and certificates. This does not affect the regulated status of RAD exams, and UCAS points will continue to apply. For the foreseeable future, we will also continue to award credit.

Second, responsibility for regulation in Wales transferred from the Welsh Government to a new independent regulator, **Qualifications Wales**, on 21 September 2015. You will notice the new Qualifications Wales logo on certificates.

the fund in each application round.

Apart from the Solo Seal, all examinations are eligible, although judges will take the level of the exam fee into account alongside the strength of the case made on behalf of the candidate.

Bursaries are available worldwide to exam candidates of RAD teachers. Successful candidates will have 12 months to use the bursary from the date of being informed of their award.

The first round of applications is open from 15 February to 15 March 2016. Successful candidates will be informed in May and there will be another round of applications in September. We intend to run the scheme for five years, but it may be renewed depending on funding arrangements.

We hope you will lend your support to this initiative of assisting deserving candidates.

#RADexams – your exam success!

The last Friday of each month is

None of this affects examinations awarded in Scotland.

Class awards

Last year, we introduced a choice of some exercises (either/or) in the Grades 1-5 class awards. Candidates no longer need to perform *all* the exercises in the syllabus.

This affects the Techniques 2, 3 and 4 sections. Details of the choices are included in the [relevant specifications](#).

New Advanced 1 And 2 male syllabus

The new Advanced 1 and 2 male syllabus has been examined from **1 January 2016**, replacing the previous male Advanced 1 and 2 work.

Information for teachers on exams moderation

dedicated to exams on our social media channels, now followed by more than 125,000 people.

Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) and shout about your success with the hashtag **#RADexams!**

Examiners

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of UK examiner and teacher **Mary Schon** on 27 December and retired examiner **Elaine Rea** on 13 January. Obituaries for Elaine and Mary will be included in the June edition of *Focus on Members*.

Staff and contacts

Last November, we welcomed our International Examinations Officer, **Joanna Pigeon**, back from maternity leave.

For general queries, please

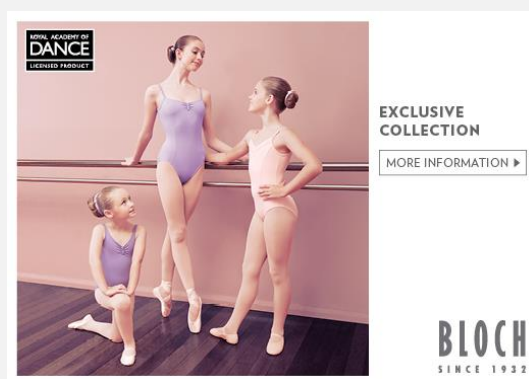
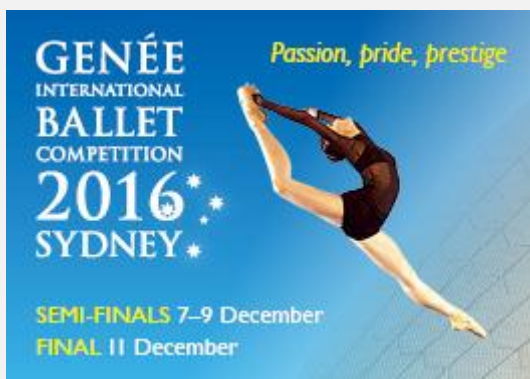
Principles of monitoring and evaluation of examination results has been updated and is now called *Information for teachers on exams moderation*.

This explains how the RAD uses statistical, comparative and historical data to monitor exam results and how this informs decisions about adjustments.

contact exams@rad.org.uk.

To register candidates (in all countries **except** Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa), please email idregistration@rad.org.uk.

To find an RAD contact, please [visit our website](#).





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