



What Are Grade Exams?

FROM CLRG WEBSITE: "The purpose of the Grade Examinations is to provide a structured framework within which dancers can progress towards an achievable goal. The syllabus has been designed to provide a strong foundation in Irish Dance by developing a candidate's physical skills, stamina, expression, musicality and an appreciation and knowledge of the traditional dances and culture. It provides a worthwhile sense of achievement for individuals whether they dance solely for health, recreation or competitive reasons or hope to pursue a career in Irish Dancing.

Grade examinations are unlike competitions in that each candidate is individually examined and receives a detailed written assessment of their performance and knowledge of the grade being attempted. They are open to both male and female candidates regardless of age and ability."

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Irish Dancing Commission (CLRG) has established 12 Grade Exams (plus an optional preliminary exam) for the purpose of offering a structured framework within which dancers can progress toward an achievable goal. Grade Exams have actually been around for many years and are very popular in Ireland and England. It should be noted that due to a recent CLRG ruling, Grade Exams will now become mandatory for those dancers wishing to become a TCRG/ADCRG in the future. All 12 Grade Exams must be completed to be eligible to apply for the TCRG Exam effective from January 1, 2018.

Grade exams are NOT competitions. Each candidate is individually examined and receives a detailed written assessment of their performance and knowledge of the grade being attempted. Candidates do NOT wear a competition costume or wig for the examination.

A dancer must take all grades in order, beginning with Grade 1 (the preliminary grade is optional). However, a candidate may only attempt a maximum of 3 consecutive Grades at any one sitting. For each exam sitting, a three month period must elapse before the next grade is attempted.

Once the dancer passes a Grade, they will receive a certificate, which notifies them of the grade and their success. This certificate is something that they will be able to frame and either hang on the wall or as a keepsake.

Camper WILL NOT be wearing their competitive dance costumes, but instead will be asked to wear black bottoms, CRC camp T-shirt (which is provided first day of camp and is included in camp tuition) and poodle socks. Wigs and costume hair attire is NOT permitted.