

The Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) Advanced 2 exam is very difficult. It requires a score of 40 out of 100 to pass, 55 for a merit, and 75 for a distinction. Getting a distinction is exceptionally rare and is the strict prerequisite required to even qualify for the elite Solo Seal exam

Getting a Distinction (75+ marks out of 100)—let alone a high Distinction—in the **Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) Advanced 2 exam is very difficult**. Advanced 2 is a elite vocational level requiring professional-level stamina, complex technical precision, and mature artistic interpretation. A Distinction here is also the strict prerequisite required to even qualify for the ultimate Solo Seal evaluation.

Passing the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) Advanced 2 vocational exam is quite difficult. It requires high-level physical stamina, advanced technical precision, and strong musicality. While a basic Pass (40–55 marks) is achievable if you know the exercises safely, earning a Merit (56–74) or Distinction (75+) demands elite-level execution.

Getting a Distinction (75% or higher) in the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) Advanced 2 vocational exam is very difficult. Because Advanced 2 is one of the highest and most physically demanding vocational levels—requiring extreme stamina, fouettés, mature artistry, and flawless pointe work—examiners hold dancers to an exceptionally strict professional standard.

Teacher Screening: Dance teachers carefully evaluate candidates before entry. Dancers who reach Advanced 2 have already successfully passed previous levels like Intermediate and Advanced 1. **Strict Preparation:** Because Advanced 2 demands mature technical proficiency, pointe work, and artistry, academies typically withhold entry until the student's technique aligns with examiner expectation

*Key Challenges of Advanced 2
Intricate Choreography: The syllabus features complex combinations and transitions that make memorization and seamless execution much harder than prior levels.

*High Technical Weight: Technique makes up 60% of the mark, penalizing minor slips in posture, placement, line, and control.

*Stamina Demands: The complexity of the exercises means fatigue sets in quickly, and minor technical breakdowns accumulate rapid point deductions.

*Artistic Expectations: 40% of the grade relies on musicality, expression, and performance quality, which requires a level of maturity that is tough to master alongside intense physical execution

*Prerequisite Pressure: Advanced 2 with Distinction is the strict gateway requirement needed to qualify for elite platforms like the RAD Solo Seal Award or major international competitions, meaning the evaluation bar is set at a professional threshold.

Deep Syllabus Knowledge: You must know every exercise so well that you can mentally map it in silence, understanding the precise counts and musical phrasing.

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/7NYCOpSFEUk>

Passing the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) Advanced 1 vocational examination is very difficult. It marks a major step up from Intermediate, demanding high-level technical precision, exceptional stamina, mature artistry, and complex pointe work. Most candidates train for years and spend hundreds of hours in the studio to reach the required standard

Getting a High Distinction (85% or higher) in the **Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) Advanced 1 exam is very difficult**. At the vocational level, Advanced 1 demands professional-level physical strength, stamina, complex coordination, and mature artistic interpretation. Only a small percentage of advanced candidates reach this top bracket, which requires near-flawless execution under exam pressure.

Technical Precision: Examiners look closely at core stability, correct placement, dynamic values, and clean lines. Small recurring postural habits or minor slips in complex allegro or pointe work quickly pull a score down.

Stamina and Maturity: Advanced 1 introduces heavy workloads, intricate batterie, and demanding adagio sequences. Showing effortless control while visibly performing rather than just "surviving" the exercise is vital.

The Strict Grading Standard: The Royal Academy of Dance introduced the High Distinction band (85–100) specifically to single out truly exceptional, polished performances.

Deep Syllabus Knowledge: You must know every exercise so well that you can mentally map it in silence, understanding the precise counts and musical phrasing.

Passing the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) Intermediate exam is considered quite difficult. It is the first major vocational level where expectations shift toward professional training standards. Examiners are strict, and candidates must show high stamina, deep technical control, and strong pointe work across 10 rigorous exercises.

Stamina and Length: The physical exam lasts around an hour to 75 minutes, requiring immense core and leg control from start to finish.

Vocational Marking Standards: Marks are harder to get than in standard graded exams. A student used to getting Distinctions in lower grades often scores a Merit here, which is still a very respected result

Pointe Work: Female dancers must execute solid work en pointe or in soft blocks, which adds heavy physical strain and technical precision demands

Solo Performance: Students perform several core exercises and routines alone or in very small groups under intense scrutiny.

Pass vs. Distinction: Just passing or earning a Merit (56–74 marks) is a major achievement

Distinction rarity: Distinctions (75+ marks) are rare and usually reserved for students training at an intensive or full-time professional level

Preparation: Meeting the recommended hours of face-to-face studio tuition and home practice is crucial; trying to cram or shortcut the syllabus usually results in a fail.

Passing the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) Intermediate Foundation examination is moderately to very challenging. It marks the transition into vocational levels where marking is harsher than general grades. It introduces foundational pointe work for female dancers and requires much higher physical stamina, technical precision, and musicality

Vocational Standard: Examiners hold students to strict vocational criteria. Marks like Distinctions are harder to earn than in regular graded exams

Pointe Work Introduction: It is the first level where female candidates must execute comprehensive exercises and sequences en pointe, requiring specific ankle and foot strength

Physical Demands: The combination of core control, faster allegro, and increased stamina tests students far beyond Grade 5 or Grade 6 levels

Manageable Expectations: While rigorous, the syllabus acts as a stepping stone. A student scoring a Merit or a clean Pass is still meeting a highly respected standard.

The Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) Solo Seal is extremely difficult to achieve. It is the highest and most demanding vocational award offered by the Royal Academy of Dance. Fewer than 1% of all RAD exam candidates worldwide reach this elite level, and an even smaller percentage actually gain it.

Advanced 2 Distinction: You must pass the Advanced 2 vocational exam with a Distinction just to qualify to enter.

Minimum Age: Candidates must be at least 15 years old

Low Entry Pool: Because Advanced 2 itself requires elite technical mastery, very few dancers globally even attempt the Solo Seal.

Live Performance: Unlike standard studio exams, candidates must perform live as soloists before an international panel of judges and a public audience

Rigorous Routine: Dancers must execute three demanding solo variations—including a set classical/historical piece (such as *Genée Port de Bras*), a 21st-century variation, and a 19th-century classical repertoire piece—plus a virtuoso finale. Only a small, elite group of international candidates attempt or achieve the award globally each year