

# AN COIMISIÚN LE RINCÍ GAELACHA.

An tÚdaras Scrúdaíthe-Examination Authority  
Scrúdaíthe Teastais agus Diplomaí Rinceoirí.

## Dancers Certificate and Diploma Examinations

### May 2024 Syllabus

#### **Grade Examinations Scheme:**

The purpose of the Grade Examinations Scheme 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 all candidates regardless of age and ability.

The scheme consists of an optional Preliminary grade followed by a further 12 grades with each grade becoming increasingly more demanding on the candidate's skill, knowledge and ability. Each grade must be passed and certificate awarded before a candidate may attempt the next level. A dancer who successfully completes all grades will be awarded "The Diploma of the Irish Dancing Commission".

**Grades and Required Dances**  
(Céilí dances are underlined, in bold and italics)

Grád/Grade	Rincí/Dances	Luas/Speed
Prelim	Ríl Easca nó Port Eadrom Easy Reel or Light Jig	Easy Reel 122-124 Light Jig 116
1	Bun Ríl agus Bun Port Eadrom Easy Reel <b>and</b> Light Jig Scrúdú Béil Gaeilge (Éire)	Easy Reel 122-124 Light Jig 116
2	Bun Port Luascach agus Bun Port Singil Easy Slip Jig <b>and</b> Easy Single Jig Scrúdú Béil Gaeilge (Éire)	Oral Irish (Ireland) Basic Slip Jig 124 Basic Single Jig 124
3	Tús Ríl agus Bun Port Trom Primary Reel <b>and</b> Basic Heavy Jig Scrúdú Béil Gaeilge (Éire)	Oral Irish (Ireland) Primary Reel 116-118 Basic Heavy Jig 96
4	Tús Port Luascach agus Lá Féile Phádraig Primary Slip Jig <b>and</b> St. Patrick's Day (Traditional) Scrúdú Béil Gaeilge (Éire)	Oral Irish (Ireland) Primary Slip Jig 120 St. Patrick's Day (trad) 94
5	Ríl Cruaidh, (Méan/ Primary/Ard) Bun Cornphíopa agus <u><i>Ballal Luimní</i></u> Advanced Reel (Intermediate/ Primary/Open), Basic (Traditional) Hornpipe <b>and</b> <u><i>Walls of Limerick</i></u>	Oral Irish (Ireland) Advanced Reel 113 (Intermediate/Primary/Open) Basic Hornpipe 144
6	Port Luascach Cruaidh (Méan/ Primary/Ard), ) An Londubh agus <u><i>lonsaí na hInse</i></u> Advanced Slip Jig (Intermediate/Primary/Open) Blackbird (Traditional) <b>and</b> <u><i>Siege of Ennis</i></u>	Advanced Slip Jig 113 (Intermediate/Primary/Open) The Blackbird (trad) 144
7	Port Trom Cruaidh, Gáirdíní na Nóiníní agus <u><i>An Ríl Ceathrair</i></u> Advanced Heavy Jig, Garden of Daisies (Traditional) <b>and</b> <u><i>Four Hand Reel</i></u>	Advanced Heavy Jig 73 Garden of Daisies (trad) 138
8	Cornphíopa Cruaidh, Greas Giúrnála agus <u><i>Pléaracha na Bandain</i></u> Advanced Hornpipe, Job of Journeywork (Traditional) <b>and</b> <u><i>Humours of Bandon</i></u>	<u><i>Walls of Limerick</i></u> Advanced Slip Jig 113 (Intermediate/Primary/Open) The Blackbird (trad) 144
9	Dhá rince Leithleach, ceann acu in am 6/8 agus an ceann eile in am 2/4 nó 4/4 (Nach Rincí traidisiúnta iad) agus <u><i>Caip an Chúil Aird</i></u>	Advanced Hornpipe 113 Job of Journeywork (trad) 138
10	Dhá rince Leithleach, ceann acu in am 6/8 agus an ceann eile in am 2/4 nó 4/4 (nach rincí traidisiúnta iad) ( <b>éagsúil ó iad i nGrád 9</b> ) agus <u><i>an Port Ochtair</i></u> .	Advanced Hornpipe 113 Job of Journeywork (trad) 138
11	Ríl Cruaidh, Port Luascach Cruaidh, Port Trom Cruaidh. Rí na Slog, móide dhá rince leith-leacha nua a roghnóidh an scrúdaitheoir as liosta cúig rince a sholáthróidh an iarrthóir ( <b>éagsúil ó iad i nGrád 9 &amp; 10</b> ) agus <u><i>An Cor Octair</i></u> agus <u><i>Port an Fhómhair</i></u> .  All of the above, plus two modern set dances selected by the examiner from a list of 5 submitted by the candidate ( <b>different from those in Grades 9 and 10</b> )	Advanced Hornpipe 113 Job of Journeywork (trad) 138
12	Port Eadrom, Port Singil, Cornphíopa Cruaidh, Triúr Captaen Mara, An Marcach Chuig an Aonach, móide dha rince leithleach nua a roghnóidh an scrúdaitheoir as liosta cúig rince a soláth-Róidh an iarrthóir ( <b>éagsúil ó iad i nGrádanna 9, 10 and 11</b> ) agus <u><i>Cor Muirghéis</i></u> agus <u><i>Cor Sé Dhuine Dhéag</i></u> .  All of the above, plus two modern set dances selected by the examiner from a list of five submitted by the candidate ( <b>different from those in Grades 9, 10 and 11</b> )	Advanced Hornpipe 113 Job of Journeywork (trad) 138
		Two modern sets, one in 6/8 time and the other in 2/4 or 4/4 time <u><i>High Caulead Cap</i></u>  Two modern set dances, one in 6/8 time and the other in 2/4 or 4/4 time ( <b>different from those in Grade 9</b> ) <u><i>The Eight Hand Jig</i></u> Advanced Reel 113 Advanced Slip Jig 113 Advanced Heavy Jig 73 King of the Fairies (trad) 130  <u><i>The Eight-Hand Reel</i></u> and <u><i>Harvest Time Jig</i></u> Light Jig 116 Single Jig 124 Advanced Hornpipe 113 Three Sea Captains(trad) 96 Jockey to the Fair (trad) 90  <u><i>The Morris Reel</i></u> and <u><i>The Sixteen Hand Reel</i></u>

- St. Patrick's Day, Blackbird, Job of Journeywork, Garden of Daisies, King of the Fairies, Three Sea Captains and Jockey to the Fair must be performed in a traditional manner.
- 40 bars of music must be danced for all Reels, Single or Hop Jigs, Light Jigs, Slip Jigs, Heavy Jigs and Hornpipes.
- Music speeds as per CLRG rules.

## Rules and Regulations for Grade Examinations

**All examiners must be aware of and adhere to the procedures, rules, etc. to ensure that examinations are conducted in the same manner worldwide.**

1. Candidates must be associated with a currently registered CLRG teacher.
2. All 12 grade examinations must be completed for a candidate to be eligible to apply to take the T.C.R.G. examination.
3. Grade examiners of choice may be used for Grades 1-6, with a minimum of 2 different examiners to be used through these grades.
4. The same grade examiner may not examine in the same class for a period of **3 years**. This also applies where a regional authority or group of teachers/classes hold the examinations. As an example, for applications for 2021, grade examiners may not have examined in the class for the years 2020, 2019 or 2018.
5. Rotation lists are in operation by An tUdarás Scrúdaithe for Grades 7-10. They are grouped as follows:

<b>Examiner Rotation List:</b>	<b>Examination Locations:</b>
Ireland	Ireland
Great Britain	England, Scotland, Wales
Europe(IRL, GB, EU)	Europe, Asia, South Africa
North America	USA, Canada, Mexico, South America
Australia/New Zealand	Australia and New Zealand

6. Five names are given to the organizer from the rotation list. Notification of the chosen grade examiner must be returned to [grades@clrg.ie](mailto:grades@clrg.ie) as soon as possible to ensure continuity of the rota. Grade examiners must respond to a request within two - three days of the invitation.
7. Grade exams must be examined by at least 4 different examiners for grades 1- 10.
8. Grades 11 and 12:
  - a. Grades 11 and 12 **must** be conducted by S.D.C.R.G. examiners.
  - b. As grades 11 and 12 are both uniquely tied to the T.C.R.G. examination, and graded by an S.D.C.R.G. examiner, briefing and questions/answers will be included to help the candidate understand the requirements and preparation necessary for all parts of the T.C.R.G. examination.

- c. Special application forms must be submitted for these exams.
  - d. Candidates must be at least 16 years or older to take grade 11.
  - e. Candidates must be at least 17 years or older to take grade 12.
  - f. A different S.D.C.R.G. examiner must examine each of grades 11 and 12.
  - g. Where possible, these examiners must be different from the examiners who assessed any grade between grades 7-10.
  - h. An tUdarás Scrúdaithe, where necessary, may appoint an S.D.C.R.G. examiner who has examined at any of the candidate's previous examinations.
  - i. The results of grades 11 and 12 are not given to the candidates until they have been ratified by An tUdarás Scrúdaithe.
  - j. The candidates will receive diplomas signed by both the examiner and chairperson of An tUdarás Scrúdaithe for grades 11 and 12. The chairperson of An Coimisiún will also sign the grade 12 diploma.
9. Each grade must be passed before a candidate may attempt the next grade.
10. Candidates must produce previous grade exam reports before proceeding to take the next grade. Reports must be presented at the examination.  
 Grades 11 and 12 require that exam reports are submitted along with the specific application form to the office of CLRG **8 weeks in advance** of the exam.  
**Grade 11** = Application & grade 1-10 examination reports to grades@clrg.ie  
**Grade 12** = Application & grade 11 report only to grades@clrg.ie
11. Grade examiners must ensure that all grades have been taken before examining the next grade. Please ensure that all previous grades are in order, as any exam taken in the future without confirmation of previous grades may not stand.
12. A candidate must take all grades in order, beginning with Grade 1 (the Preliminary grade is optional).
13. Scrúdú Béil, or oral Irish exam, is required for grades 1-4 in Ireland.
14. A candidate may only attempt **three** consecutive grades at any one exam.
15. A three-month period must elapse before the next grade is attempted.
16. A candidate would be permitted to retake any grade for a better score upon submission of a specific written request to the Udarás Scrúdaithe, with the understanding that the second result would replace the earlier one and that the dancer would be required to pay the usual fee for the grade being retaken.
17. A candidate undergoing a six-month restyling period may take a grade examination.

18. A certificate is awarded for each grade. Grade examinations are unlike competitions in that each candidate performs the dances individually and receives a detailed written assessment.
19. A grade should be given for each solo dance performed and averaged to achieve the overall grade. Céilí dances should not be included in the average grade. Comments should be noted on the theoretical knowledge.
20. Candidates must be able to adequately demonstrate practical and theoretical knowledge of all céilí dances as per *Ár Rincí Céilí* as specified in the syllabus for Grades 5 -12. *The candidates must not be asked to teach these dances.*
21. Dance costumes should not be worn.
22. Only basic steps may be danced in the preliminary grade and grades 1, 2 and 3.
23. St. Patrick's Day, Blackbird, Garden of Daisies, Job of Journeywork, King of the Fairies, Three Sea Captains, and Jockey to the Fair must be performed in a traditional style and manner.
24. 40 bars of music must be danced for all Reels, Single or Hop Jigs, Light Jigs, Slip Jigs, Heavy Jigs and Hornpipes.
25. Music speeds on the syllabus as per CLRG rules.
26. All modern set dances in grades 9-12 **must not** be repeated in any of these grades.
27. An Comhdháil Grades are accepted by An Coimisiún. Proof of having taken these examinations (certificates and marking sheets) must be submitted beforehand to An tÚdarás Scrúdaithe, and produced at the examination.

### **Recommendations for Running a Grade Exam:**

1. 8-10 grades (not candidates) per hour. 80- 100 grades per day.
2. Groups may go into the examination room together. Dancers must be examined individually.