ASSESSMENT POLICY

Policy Owner: Head Office
Oversight Committee: Examinations & Standards Committee
Final Authority: Grand Council
Applies to: All regulated and unregulated I-PATH qualifications, awards and CPD
Review Cycle: Annual or following regulatory or operational change

1. Purpose

This policy sets out how International Performing Arts & Theatre Limited (I-PATH) designs, delivers, marks and quality assures assessment to ensure that:

- assessment outcomes are valid, reliable, fair and consistent
- assessment evidence accurately reflects learner attainment
- standards are protected across qualifications and over time
- assessment arrangements comply with Ofqual expectations where applicable
- roles and responsibilities are clear and auditable

Assessment is central to public confidence in I-PATH qualifications and is therefore subject to robust governance and oversight.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- practical examinations
- vocational examinations
- written projects and academic work
- recorded audio (e.g. podcasts)
- unregulated awards and CPD
- regulated and unregulated qualifications delivered by or through I-PATH

This policy should be read alongside:

- Academic Integrity Policy
- Malpractice and Maladministration Policy
- Reasonable Adjustments & Special Considerations Policy
- AI Policy
- Appeals Policy

3. Core Assessment Principles

All assessment activity at I-PATH is underpinned by the following principles:

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1. **Validity** - assessment measures what it is intended to measure.
2. **Reliability** - assessment outcomes are consistent and comparable.
3. **Fairness** - no learner is disadvantaged or unfairly advantaged.
4. **Authenticity** - evidence represents the learner's own work and performance.
5. **Transparency** - assessment requirements and criteria are clear.
6. **Proportionality** - assessment methods are appropriate to the qualification.
7. **Human judgement** - assessment decisions are made by trained professionals.

4. Assessment Models at I-PATH

I-PATH operates different assessment models, depending on the qualification type. These models are deliberately defined to ensure clarity, regulatory compliance and control of standards.

5. Examiner-Assessed Qualifications

5.1 Practical Graded and Vocational Examinations

For all practical graded examinations and vocational graded examinations:

- assessment is conducted by an I-PATH Examiner
- examiners assess learner performance directly against published criteria
- examiners determine marks and grades
- examiners provide structured feedback in line with guidance

5.2 Vocational Project Components

Where vocational qualifications include a project element, learners may submit:

- a written project, and/or
- a recorded podcast

In these cases:

- the I-PATH Examiner marks the written project and/or reviews the podcast
- marking is undertaken using published assessment criteria
- examiner judgement determines the outcome

5.3 Unregulated Awards

For unregulated awards, including but not limited to:

- Achievement Awards
- Graded Achievement Awards
- Guided Graded Examinations

assessment is carried out by an I-PATH Examiner, who:

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- assesses performance and/or submitted evidence
- applies the relevant criteria
- determines the outcome

6. In-House Assessment with Moderation

6.1 Diploma in Choreography (Unregulated)

The Diploma in Choreography is an unregulated qualification delivered by I-PATH.

Due to the specialist and industry-led nature of the programme:

- assessment is undertaken by the Course Lead, who is an expert in choreography and industry practice
- all assessment decisions are subject to moderation by I-PATH Head Office
- moderation activity is overseen by the Examinations & Standards Committee

This model ensures:

- expert subject judgement
- consistency of standards
- appropriate separation between delivery and oversight

6.2 CPD Courses (Unregulated)

I-PATH CPD courses are unregulated.

Assessment of CPD is undertaken by:

- I-PATH Head Office and/or
- an I-PATH Examiner

Members are required to complete 20 hours of CPD, consisting of:

- a minimum of 10 hours Time-Valued CPD
  (e.g. formal workshops, courses, structured online learning)
- a maximum of 10 hours Independent CPD
  (e.g. private study, mentoring, planning)

Evidence of completion is reviewed to confirm requirements have been met.

7. Awarding Organisation-Assessed Qualifications

For the following professional qualifications:

- Level 3 Learning Support Certificate
- Level 4 Teaching Diploma in Performing Arts

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- Level 6 Teaching Diploma in Performing Arts
- Level 4 Professional Diploma in Performing Arts
- Level 6 Professional Diploma in Performing Arts

I-PATH:

- leads course delivery and learner support
- may assess work for formative, feedback or mock purposes only

Final summative assessment, marking and awarding decisions are made by the awarding organisation, and:

- the awarding organisation's mark is final
- I-PATH does not override or amend those decisions

This distinction is clearly communicated to learners and centres.

8. Assessment Design and Criteria

All assessments are:

- aligned to published learning outcomes
- designed to allow learners to demonstrate required knowledge, skills and understanding
- supported by clear assessment criteria and grade descriptors

Assessment methods may include:

- live performance
- recorded performance
- written work
- audio submissions
- reflective evaluation

Where new assessment formats are introduced, learners are given appropriate guidance and preparation.

9. Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations

Assessment arrangements may be adapted in accordance with the Reasonable Adjustments & Special Considerations Policy to support learner access, while maintaining assessment validity and standards.

10. Academic Integrity and Use of Technology

All assessment evidence must comply with:

- the Academic Integrity Policy
- the AI Policy

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Unauthorised use of technology, including AI misuse, may constitute malpractice and will be investigated accordingly.

11. Quality Assurance and Oversight

I-PATH ensures assessment quality through:

- examiner training and standardisation
- moderation (where applicable)
- monitoring of examiner reports and feedback
- review of assessment outcomes and trends
- oversight by the Examinations & Standards Committee

The Committee reports to the Grand Council on assessment standards and risks.

12. Results, Enquiries and Appeals

Assessment outcomes are subject to:

- Enquiries of Results
- Appeals

in accordance with published policies. Appeals do not involve re-marking but review the application of procedures.

13. Records and Retention

I-PATH maintains secure records of:

- assessment decisions
- examiner reports
- moderation outcomes
- feedback provided

Records are retained in line with regulatory, contractual and data protection requirements.

14. Review and Continuous Improvement

This policy is reviewed annually and updated in response to:

- regulatory change
- qualification development
- emerging assessment risks
- feedback from examiners, centres and learners

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