

GCSE Dance Knowledge Organiser

Exam command words

Analyse: Separate information into components and identify characteristics to be able to explain and interpret.

Comment: Present an informed opinion.

Compare: Identify similarities and/or differences.

Consider: Review and respond to information given.

Define: Specify meaning.

Describe: Set out characteristics.

Discuss: Present key points taking into account different ideas, characteristics and/or features.

Evaluate: Judge from available evidence and make an informed design on the effectiveness.

Explain: Set out purposes or reasons.

Give: Produce an answer from recall.

How: State in what ways.

Identify: Name or characterise.

Interpret: Translate information into recognisable form demonstrating an understanding of meaning.

Name: Identify correctly.

Outline: Set out main characteristics.

State: Express in clear terms.

Suggest: Present a possible case or possible answer.

Tick: Put a mark to indicate something is correct.

What: Specify something.

Which: Specify from a range of possibilities.

Why: Give a reason or purpose.

Knowledge, understanding and skills for performance

Expressive skills

Projection.
Focus.
Spatial awareness.
Facial expression
Phrasing
Musicality
Sensitivity to other dancers
Communication of choreographic intent

Physical skills

Posture
Alignment
Balance
Coordination
Control
Flexibility
Mobility
Strength
Stamina

Technical skills

Action
Space
Dynamics
Relationships
Timing
Rhythmic content
Moving in a stylistically accurate way

Mental Skills

Prep for performance:
Systematic repetition
Mental rehearsal
Rehearsal discipline
Planning of rehearsal
Response to feedback
Capacity to improve

During performance:
Movement memory
Commitment
Concentration
Confidence

Safe Practice

Prep for performance:
Warming up
Cooling down
Nutrition
Hydration

During performance:
Safe execution
Appropriate dance wear:
footwear
hairstyle
clothing
absence of jewellery

Knowledge, understanding and skills for choreography

Action

Travel
Turn
Elevation
Gesture
Stillness
Use of different body parts
Floor work
Transfer of weight

Dynamics

Fast/slow
Sudden/sustained
Acceleration/deceleration
Strong/light
Direct/indirect
Flowing/abrupt

Spatial Content

Pathways
Levels
Direction
Size of movement
Patterns
Spatial design

Relationship Content

Lead and follow
Mirroring
Action and reaction
Accumulation
Complement and contrast
Counterpoint
Contact
Formations

Choreographic processes

Researching
Improvising
Generating
Selecting
Developing
Structuring
Refining and synthesising

Structuring devices and form

Binary
Ternary
Rondo
Narrative
Episodic
Beginning/middle/end
Unity
Logical sequence
Transitions

Choreographic devices

Motif and development
Repetition
Contrast
Highlights
Climax
Manipulation of number
Unison and canon

Features of production

Staging/set: Eg- projection, furniture, structures, backdrop, screens and features of these such as colour, texture, shape, decoration, materials.

Lighting: Eg- Colour, placement, direction, angles etc.

Properties: Eg- Size, shape, materials, how used etc.

Costume: Footwear, masks, make up, accessories, Features such as colour, texture, material, flow, shape, line, weight, decoration and how they define character or gender, identify characters, enhance or sculpt the body and enhance the action.

Dancers: Number and gender.

Aural setting: Eg: Song, instrumental, orchestral, spoken word, silence, natural sound, found sound, body percussion, style, structure and musical elements such as tone, pitch and rhythm.

Dance for camera: Eg- Placement, angle, proximity, special effects.

Choreography key words

Stimulus: The starting point for a dance piece.

Motif: A short phrase of movement that reflects a stimulus.

Choreographic intention:
What the choreographer would like the audience to learn about the dance.

Choreographic approach:
How the choreographer created movement material eg- improvisation, collaboration, choreographic tasks.

Communication of choreographic intent

Mood
Meaning
Idea
Theme
Style/style fusion

Performance environment

Proscenium arch
End stage
Site-sensitive
In-the-round

Knowledge, understanding and skills for critical appreciation