



GCSE Dance

How to be successful

COURSE CONTENT



Choreography
30%

Performance 30%

Critical
appreciation 40%

Students will create a solo/ group in response to a stimulus set by the exam board

- A solo performance of two set phrases
- A duet/ trio performance including two remaining set phrase

A written examination (1h30), demonstrating knowledge of own practice in performance and choreography and critical appreciation of 6 professional works

Honesty ~ Excellence ~ Ambition ~ Respect ~ Teamwork

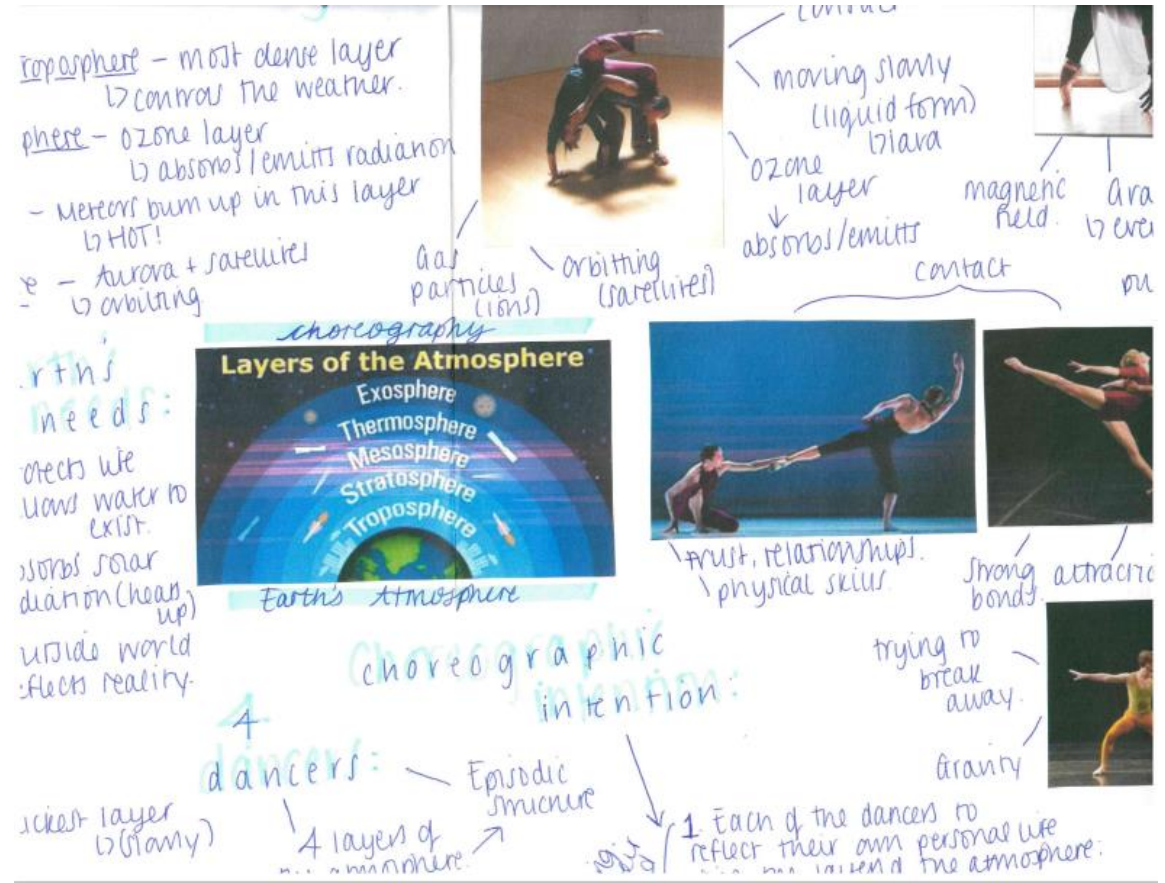
CHOREOGRAPHY

Students will create a solo/ group in response to a stimulus set by the exam board



How to achieve a high quality piece of choreography:

- Originality and creativity outcome through extensive research
- Use a range of challenging action, space, dynamic and relationship ideas
 - Effective transitions
- Consider use of exits/ entrances
 - Add in some memorable moments
 - Add in a climax
- Explore more than one music idea or aural setting and listen to the feedback from your teachers



PERFORMANCE

- A solo performance of two set phrases
- A duet/ trio performance including two remaining set phrase



How to achieve a high-quality set phrase:

- Treat it as a performance
- Perform with use of projection, facial expression and focus
- Show knowledge of the rhythmic content 'hold' counts by pausing
 - A variation in dynamics

How to achieve a high-quality duet:

- Clear original dance idea
 - Ensuring challenge in choreographic choices
 - Showing off individual capabilities
- Clear moments of safe practice
- Excellent timing with a partner
- Does the style enable you to access top band marks?
- 100% commitment throughout the whole dance
- Engaging performance – use of character/ facial expression
- Clear inclusion of remaining set phrases

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CRITICAL APPRECIATION

Section A - questions on knowledge of key skills (performance and choreography)

KNOW YOUR KEY WORDS AND WHAT THEY RELATE TO!

A written examination (1h30)

Section B – questions on own practice (performance and choreography)
FOLLOW THE PEEL STRUCTURE
LINK ANSWER BACK TO QUESTION

Section C – questions on professional works

KNOW THE WORKS INSIDE OUT
HAVE SOME EXAMPLES READY IN REVISION NOTES

Choreographic Skills

ACTION

travel
turn
elevation
gesture
stillness
use of different body parts
floor work
transfer of weight

SPACE

pathways
levels
directions
size of movement
patterns
spatial design

DYNAMICS

fast/slow
sudden/sustained
acceleration/deceleration
strong/light
direct/indirect
flowing/abrupt

Do You Know?

what's in each box!

RELATIONSHIPS

lead and follow
mirroring
action and reaction
accumulation
complement and contrast
counterpoint
contact
formations

STRUCTURE

binary
ternary
rondo
narrative
episodic
beginning/middle/end
unity
logical sequence

CHOREOGRAPHIC DEVICES

motif and development
repetition
contrast
highlights
climax
manipulation of number
unison and canon

AURAL SETTINGS

song
instrumental
orchestral
spoken word
silence
natural sound
found sound
body percussion

PERFORMANCE ENVIRONMENTS

proscenium arch
end stage
site-sensitive
in-the-round

IMPORTANT

artspool
dance education support

SECTION A : 30 MARKS

PERFORMING SKILLS

LEARN THEM!

Make sure you know which skill goes in which box!
You **WILL** need them!

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

EXPRESSIVE SKILLS

projection
focus
spatial awareness
facial expression
phrasing
musicality
sensitivity to other dancers
communication of choreographic intent

MENTAL SKILLS

PREP FOR PERFORMANCE

systematic repetition
mental rehearsal
rehearsal discipline
planning of rehearsal
response to feedback
capacity to improve

MENTAL SKILLS

DURING PERFORMANCE

movement memory
commitment
concentration
confidence

SAFE PRACTICE

PREP FOR PERFORMANCE

warming up
cooling down
nutrition
hydration

SAFE PRACTICE

DURING PERFORMANCE

safe execution
appropriate dancewear, including:
footwear
hairstyle
absence of jewellery

IMPORTANT

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