

Choreography and Performance: The Art of Movement

Learning objective: To understand, develop, and refine movement patterns, motifs, and spatial awareness in dance sequences.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of dance terminology and physical performance to provide detailed, analytical responses. Think like a choreographer!

Word bank: motif · spatial awareness · dynamics · unison · canon · transition · synchronisation · level · tempo

1. Zara is designing a dance routine inspired by the patterns of the savannah. Define what a 'motif' is in dance and explain why it is essential for a choreographer to establish one early in a performance. (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast 'unison' and 'canon'. Describe a scenario where using 'canon' would be more effective than 'unison' to communicate a specific mood to an audience. (3 marks)

3. Max is choreographing a sequence that moves from a low level to a high level. Explain why varying your level during a dance is crucial for maintaining audience engagement. (2 marks)

4. If you were to change the 'dynamics' of a sharp, robotic movement sequence to make it appear 'fluid and lyrical', what specific adjustments would you need to make to your body tension and tempo? (2 marks)

5. Justify why spatial awareness is considered the most important safety element when performing complex, fast-paced group choreography. (2 marks)

6. What might happen to the overall aesthetic of a piece if a performer fails to use 'transitions' effectively between two contrasting sections of music? (2 marks)

Draw: Sketch a birds-eye view map of a stage. Use arrows and labels to show three different dancers moving in 'canon' formation, ensuring they maintain appropriate spatial awareness to avoid collisions.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are directing a dance performance based on the theme of 'The Changing Seasons'. Create a storyboard of four movements. For each movement, specify the level (low, medium, high), the tempo (fast, slow, staccato, sustained), and describe how the movement represents a specific seasonal change.