Your notes

GCSE Dance: revision notes

Choreographic devices and structures

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Actions, space, dynamics and relationships

- Actions: travel, turn, elevation (jumps), gesture, stillness, floor work, transfer of weight, and use of different body parts.
- Space: pathways, levels, directions, size of movement, patterns and spatial design.
- Dynamics: fast/slow, sudden/sustained, strong/light, direct/indirect, flowing/abrupt, acceleration and deceleration.
- Relationships: lead and follow, mirroring, action and reaction, **accumulation**, complement and contrast, **counterpoint**, contact and formations.

Choreographic devices

- Motif and development: changing a motif by altering its speed, level, direction, size or body part.
- Repetition, contrast, highlights and **climax**.
- Manipulation of number: using different numbers of dancers.
- **Unison** (everyone moving together at the same time) and **canon** (the same movement performed one after another).

Structuring devices

- Binary (AB), ternary (ABA), rondo (ABACA), narrative (telling a story) and episodic (a series of linked sections).
- A clear beginning, middle and end, with logical sequencing, transitions and unity.

Key terms

Canon	Dancers performing the same movement one after another.

Unison	Dancers performing the same movement at the same time.
Motif development	Changing a motif to create new material.
Counterpoint	Dancers performing different material at the same time.
Accumulation	Adding movements or dancers one at a time.
Climax	The most important or exciting moment of a dance.
Episodic structure	A dance made of a series of linked sections.

Your notes

Quick questions

Cover the answers and test yourself: remembering is what makes it stick.

1. What is canon?
2. What is unison?
3. What is counterpoint?
4. Which is a way to develop a motif?
5. What is a climax?
6. What is ternary structure?
7. What is accumulation?
8. Which is a dynamic quality?

Answers

1. Dancers performing the same movement one after another
2. Dancers performing the same movement at the same time
3. Dancers performing different material at the same time
4. Changing its level
5. The most important or exciting moment of a dance
6. ABA
7. Adding movements or dancers one at a time
8. Sudden or sustained

What to do next

Practise 10 questions on this topic

Try 3 exam questions, with mark schemes

Read the lesson, one step at a time

Free revision for GCSE and KS3 at lycolearn.co.uk. Some notes are for one exam board only, and say so in brackets.