Performance

IB DP Dance performance task full package

Performance

- plan a performance programme that meets the time and solo/duet rules;
- choose dances that show range;
- perform with clarity in space, time and **dynamics**;

Performance (2)

- interpret a dance's intention and make it visible;
- communicate with other dancers and with a live audience.

The programme and the half rule

- Your **programme** should show **range**: different styles, moods or qualities, so the examiner sees more than one side of you as a dancer.
- Three dances in the same style and mood show the same thing three times.
- The **half rule** means: add up the time of your solo and duet dances; it must be at least half the total.
- **Worked example: checking a programme.**

Skills: clarity in space, time and dynamics

- **Clarity in space**: lines are complete, levels are exact, pathways go exactly where they should. An arm that should be at shoulder height is at shoulder height every time.
- **Clarity in time**: rhythm is precise, including stillness. A pause held for four counts lasts four counts.
- **Clarity in dynamics** : the quality of the movement changes when the dance asks for it.

Expression and the open showing

- **to other performers**: in a duet or group, timing is a conversation. Dancers listen to each other's breath and weight, not only to the counts;
- **to the audience**: the open showing is a real performance for real people, not a filmed **rehearsal**. Focus, eyes and energy reach the back row.
- the stopped gesture lands just **off** the beat, so the movement feels hesitant;

Expression and the open showing (2)

- the two dancers **never look at each other** until the final unison, so the moment they do becomes the climax;
- their walking stays **bound** in flow until the last phrase, when it releases.

Sources for this lesson

- International Baccalaureate, *Dance guide* (2014).
- R. Laban, *The Mastery of Movement* (1950).
- J. Homans, *Apollo's Angels: A History of Ballet* (2010), on Fokine, Pavlova and *The Dying Swan*.
- N. Servos, *Pina Bausch: Dance Theatre* (2008).

Common errors

- Breaking the half rule: check that solo and duet time is at least half the total.
- Choosing three dances in the same style and mood, so the programme shows no range.
- Showing off difficult steps that blur the phrase. Clarity counts more than difficulty.

Common errors (2)

- Approximate positions and rushed stillness.
- Dancing the steps without an intention, or with an intention the audience cannot read.
- Treating the open showing as a **rehearsal**: perform to the audience.

Key terms

- **Open showing**: a live performance in front of an audience, recorded for assessment.
- **Half rule**: at least half the programme time must be solo and/or duet work.
- **Clarity**: exactness in space, time and **dynamics**.

Key terms (2)

- **Effort factors**: Laban's weight, time, space and flow, which make up the quality of a movement.
- **Interpretation**: the performer's reading of a dance's intention, made visible.

Check yourself

- 1.
- A programme has a 3-minute group dance, a 2-minute solo and a 1.5-minute duet.
- Does it meet the HL rules? 2.
- Name Laban's four effort factors. 3.