

Composition and choreography

IB DP Dance Composition and choreography full package

1. Composing at a glance

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IB Dance composition and analysis: three composed works totalling 8-15 minutes plus an analytical statement on the processes of composition and analysis of one dance - 35 percent at HL. Composition taught as craft: motif, development, form, contrast.

Must-know: the motif as the smallest intention-carrying cell; the five development methods; contrast within and across works; the statement as decision analysis (problems, trials, fix, lesson).

2. Motif and development

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The motif is a movement cell: small enough to transform, recognisable enough to anchor. Development: repetition (meaning accumulates), variation (timing, dynamics, facings), transposition (new body part or level), retrograde (backwards), accumulation (stacked cells).

Worked: Reach, a trio on a reach that collapses at the elbow; seven shrinking repetitions read as exhaustion; sudden-against-sustained dynamics read as resistance; the retrograde closes the work by reversing its story.

3. Form and contrast

Form and contrast

Form organizes time so the return is legible (statement, departure, return; ABA; theme and mutations). Contrast runs within a work (levels, tempo, density, dynamics) and ACROSS the works: at least two of the three must contrast in subject matter or approach.

Worked: Doorframe contrasts Reach completely (unison walking, no floorwork, a stopped-gesture motif); Counting House contrasts again by structure (accumulation only).

4. The analytical statement

The analytical statement

The statement analyses ONE dance's processes: the compositional problems, the solutions tried and chosen, the lesson for future development, with key terms applied and sources attributed. Not a diary: an account of decisions.

Worked: the Reach statement; the collapse that read as accident; three trials; the weighted collapse with breath audible chosen; the lesson that a motif's meaning is set by its development, not its shape.

Check yourself

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The motif small, recognisable, intention-carrying.

Five developments; decoration cut; the return legible.

Contrast within and across the works.

The statement on one dance, decision by decision.