



GCSE PE Coursework marking training – Module 3: Understanding the marks given for each exemplar - Component 3 – the Practical Performance

Exemplar 3 - Activity: Dance

Skills in Isolation and Application of Skills, techniques and decision - making in a competitive/formal situation

1 candidate performing

General Comments:

It is important to take into consideration that as assessors of this activity we are not assessing the choreography, as this is creative in nature and makes dance too distinct from the other activities (for example, we do not ask footballers to submit their strategy for the game!) We are concerned with the assessment of the performance.

The candidate is observed performing the skills in isolation at the beginning of the video.

The dance criteria states that:

'Candidates will be assessed on the quality demonstrated for any **four** of the following skills:

- Travel/locomotion/stepping/pathways
- Balance/stillness
- Rotation/turning/weight transference
- Jumps/elevations
- Gestures and motifs

The candidate demonstrated all the above skills, but should not be penalised for doing so, as it is the quality of performance that should be assessed as opposed to the quantity of skills shown. For assessment purposes it would be beneficial for candidates who perform dance to repeat the skills in isolation a few times particularly during a 'live' moderation so that the consistency of performance can be seen, as the skills tend to take place over a very short time span.

Skills in isolation

The technical ability of the candidate was clear to see during the skills section, where it was evident that she had a very good level of posture, placement, alignment, coordination, balance and strength.

The contemporary dance style focuses a lot on downward movements that require core strength which was obvious when the candidate was performing the travelling movements across the floor, which she did with very good rhythm and mobility. The skills of balance and stillness were performed with a very good level of focus and posture from the head position downwards. The head was straight and the fingers were pointed. The skills of rotation and weight transference highlighted the candidate's very good level of coordination and mobility, as well as her ability to work to the beat of the music. The



gestures and motifs were performed with a very good level of accuracy, precision, control and strength.

If the performance meets the requirements fully and consistently, markers should be prepared to award full marks within the level. The top mark in the level is used for performances that are as good as can realistically be expected within that level.

Mark: Level 5 – 10 marks

Application of Skills

The candidate is observed performing a duet with a dance partner who is of similar ability. The dance performance consists of a typical contemporary dance style routine that lasts for approximately 2.59 minutes which meets the assessment requirements for this activity.

There was obviously a close link between the candidate's own physical ability and the art of successful expression, through the development of the motif and gestures, although there could have been better use of facial expression to convey the emotion of the theme; this was not evident until towards the end of the routine.

The movements were performed with a very good level of control throughout with a variety of multiple and simultaneous skills, most advanced, being executed during the routine in relation to posture/placement, alignment and coordination of the arms and legs. The moves were also performed with a very good level of strength, focus and projection.

There was wholly accurate execution of all aspects of actions, dynamics and spatial content, showing consistent timing and very good musicality.

The candidate performed the routine with excellent confidence and focus throughout the performance.

The repetitive rhythmic patterns that were used during the routine demonstrated very good fluency, continuity and logical progression.

The motif was developed using a variety of advanced methods enabling the dance to be performed with very good clarity and interest.

The theme was communicated with sensitivity throughout the dance. The choice of music was appropriate to the theme and was sophisticated and mature, complementing the structure and content of the dance, enhancing the overall impact of the choreographic intent.

The group relationship was sophisticated, with the candidate demonstrating a very good level of sensitivity to and awareness of her partner throughout the dance.

The middle marks of the level are used for performances that have a reasonable match to the descriptor. This might represent a balance between some characteristics of the level that are fully met and others that are only barely met.

Marks: Level 5 – 23 marks