

# Turton School

## A Level Dance Preparation

### A Level Dance Course Overview

The study of dance enables you to develop socially whilst promoting creativity, fitness and well-being. As well as developing as performers, you'll also develop skills in confidence, self-esteem and team working skills. Assessment includes a combination of practical dance tasks alongside creative extended writing assignments. This will equip you with the necessary skills and experience to study dance further or embark on an exciting career in the arts.

### Theoretical preparation

To prepare for our practical studies I would like you to gain a theoretical understanding of all the skills required in performance. As a performer you need to demonstrate a range of technical and performance skills, such as:

- Musicality
- Alignment
- Timing
- Awareness of others/Sensitivity towards others
- Control
- Use of focus
- Projection
- Strength
- Emphasis
- Flexibility

Research the definition of each of the 10 skills and give an example of how you have/or can improve this skill through your study of dance. Work should be handwritten and details of where you have found your information should be included in a bibliography e.g.

### Websites

Turtonhighschool@ 123.com

### Books

The Art of dance by Mrs Atkinson



## Choreographic Task

As A Level Dance students' you will need to be able to show you have a clear and developed understanding of the idea, leading to highly imaginative and creative outcomes in your choreographies. This will be achieved through effective and informative research, so that you are able to see beyond the simple and obvious choices.

I would like you to research one of the following ideas as a stimulus to create a piece of solo choreography.

- 1) Choreograph and perform a dance based on an exploration of the different types of symmetry used in geometry.
- 2) Choreograph and perform a dance based on a consideration and exploration of one or more of The Air Series of Sculptures created by Daniel Wurtzel (born 1963).
- 3) Choreograph and perform a dance based on an exploration of the functions and symbolism linked to the Roman God Janus.

### Task 1:

Create a short motif of movement that clearly shows the idea you are expressing in your choreography.

The motif must be at least 32 counts in length and consist of appropriate actions, dynamics and spatial ideas which relate to the stimulus.

### Task 2:

Create a presentation with accompanying notes on how you would choreograph a solo dance based on the idea you have chosen; you will need to consider the following:

- o How you have interpreted the idea/what aspect of it you are portraying
- o Choice of actions, dynamics, spatial patterns and reasoning for this
- o Structure of the dance
- o Choice of music

## Practitioner Research

To prepare for the theoretical component. Choose a practitioner from one of the areas of study at A Level Dance and create an A4 length fact file on documenting the following information:

Background information  
Influences (on themselves/on others)  
Choreographic style  
Movement style  
List of work created  
Affiliations with Dance Companies

### Practitioners:

Glen Tetley (1926-2007)  
Robert North (Born 1945)  
Christopher Bruce (Born 1945)  
Richard Alston (Born 1948)

Jerome Robbins (1918-1998)  
Bob Fosse (1927-1987)  
Gene Kelly (1912-1996)

### Keeping Active

Look at the genres of dance used in the AQA A Level Dance specification and pick which one you feel you have the least experience in. During the summer take part in a class or workshop for this genre to enhance and broaden your skills in the style. You will need to write a short summary of the session including information about the class/workshop you took part in as well as what you learnt from it.

Below is a list of links to available classes and workshops across Manchester/the North West which might be worth attending:

<http://studio25manchester.com/>  
<https://www.thedancehouse.co.uk/>  
<http://www.tdsbolton.co.uk/>  
<http://www.dawsonacademy.co.uk/>  
<https://www.francesbleasdale-bolton.co.uk/>  
<http://www.megadance.co.uk/>  
<https://www.centre-pointe.co.uk/>  
<https://ludusdance.org/programmes/>  
<http://www.northwestdance.org.uk/>

### Reading List

Below is a list of books which may be useful to your study throughout the A Level Dance course. There is no obligation to buy or read all of these but pre reading about your subject will definitely help you throughout the course.

### Compulsory Area of Study:

#### Rambert Dance Company (formerly Ballet Rambert) 1966 – 2002

Bremser, M. and Sanders, L. (eds). (2011). Fifty Contemporary Choreographers. 2nd edition. London: Routledge

Clarke, M. and Crisp, C. (1989) London Contemporary Dance Theatre: the first 21 Years. London: Dance Books

Crisp, C., Sainsbury, A. and Williams, P. (eds). Ballet Rambert, Fifty Years and On. London: Rambert Dance Company

Dance Study Supplement Part One: Contemporary Dance available from the Dancing Times Optional Area of Study: American Jazz Dance 1940-1975

Conrad, C. (2000) Jerome Robbins that Broadway man that ballet man London: Booth-Clibborn Editions

Emmet Long, R. (2001) Broadway, The Golden Years. Jerome Robbins and the Great Choreographers 1940 to the present New York, London: Continuum

Hirschhorn, C. (1975, 1984) Gene Kelly: A Biography Chicago, Regnery, New York: St Martin's Press

Parkinson, D. (2007) The Rough Guide to Film Musicals London: Rough Guides Ltd

## Websites

### Rambert Dance Company

britannica.com/biography

criticaldance.com/interviews/1999/cbruce990700.html

rambert.org.uk

rambert.org.uk/explore/rambert-archive/

richardalstondance.com

sadlerswells.com

siobhandavies.com

<https://gcseandaleveldance.wordpress.com>

## Jazz

agnesdemilledances.com/biography.html

britannia.com/biography/St Stanley-Donen

danceheritage.org/treasures/cole\_essay\_levine.pdf

masterworksbroadway.com/artist/bob-fosse/

notablebiographies.com/Jo-Ki/Kelly-Gene.html

jeromerobbins.org

All tasks will be due in on the first lesson back, if you have any questions about the course or tasks please email me at [Atkinsonl@turton.uk.com](mailto:Atkinsonl@turton.uk.com)