

GCSE Dance—Skills for Performance

EXPRESSIVE SKILLS



'Aspects that contribute to performance artistry and that engage the audience' such as focus and musicality.

Expressive skills are the things that give a performance it's own energy, that make it engaging to watch and make you respond to it emotionally. There are a number of expressive skills that a dancer needs to use to be an effective performer. You have to demonstrate expressive skills in your set phrases and your duet/trio performance

REMEMBER

Sometimes you will be asked how to improve a skill from the mental, technical or expressive skill categories. These skills require a focus on REHEARSAL methods

KEY WORDS	DEFINITION	HOW TO IMPROVE THIS SKILL?
1. Communication of choreographic intent	The aim of the dance What the choreographer intends to communicate	3, 6, 9
2 Facial expressions	Use of the face to show mood, feeling or character.	3, 4, 6, 9
3. Focus	Use of the eyes to enhance performance or interpretative qualities	1, 2, 6, 9
4. Musicality	The ability to make the unique qualities of the accompaniment evident in performance	3, 7, 8, 11
5. Phrasing	The way in which the energy is distributed in the execution of a movement phrase	3, 6, 9, 11
6. Projection	The energy the dancer uses to connect with and draw in the audience	3, 6, 9, 10
7. Sensitivity to other dancers	Awareness of and connection to other dancers	3, 4, 6, 9
8. Spatial awareness	Consciousness of the surrounding space and its effective use.	3, 4, 6, 9

1. Identify focal points in the room
2. Systematic repetition
3. Film yourself and watch it back
4. Use mirrors to check for accuracy
5. Mark out the dance floor
6. Peer feedback for accuracy
7. Make a graphic score (analyse the music on paper)
8. Analyse the counts in and identify the accents in the music.
9. Teacher feedback for accuracy
10. Take notes
11. Break down the phrase.

EXAM QUESTIONS example

1. Define the term **sensitivity to other dancers** (1 mark)
2. Outline a rehearsal method you could use to improve sensitivity to other dancers (1 mark)
3. Explain how your use of **expressive skills** contributed to the overall effectiveness of the performance in one of your two set phrases (6 marks)



Exam Tips:

Revise the definition of each term, learn how to improve this skill. Make sure you can describe examples of where they are used in your set phrases & performance duo/trio. Have an understanding of how they contribute to the effectiveness of each dance.