



Getting Ahead – Pre-course Work

#ThinkBrock

Dance Level 3 Extended Certificate

Welcome to Dance. In preparation for the start of the course, please complete these tasks and have them with you to hand in during your first week of college in September.

These tasks should take you approximately four and a half hours to complete and are designed to give you an introduction to the subject, and the expectations we have for you to complete at least four and a half hours of independent study, per subject, per week.

Task 1

Rambert is a world-renowned dance company and is one of Britain's most established and successful companies. Your first task is to research the history and development of the company and produce a 500-word report to highlight your findings. Your report should focus on the following points:

- Who founded the company and when
- Key dates and changes within the company's style of dance
- Reference to the main artistic directors and choreographers who had an impact on the company

This website is a good starting point: <https://rambert.org.uk/about-rambert/our-history/>

Task 2

Watch the following videos, look at the website and then answer the questions.

Video 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87ITO2DTm20>

Video 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9H4YQRizARI>

Video 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IU7bCRLry18>

Website: <https://peakyblindersdance.com/>

1. Who choreographed Rambert's *Peaky Blinders: The Redemption of Thomas Shelby*?
2. What is the piece about?
3. Why is costume important in this piece?
4. The creation of *Peaky Blinders* was a collaborative process. What does the word collaboration mean, and can you give an example of another dance production that was produced as a result of collaboration?
5. Some dance pieces can be described as abstract, not requiring dancers to use a complex range of facial expressions, however, some dance pieces can require a lot of facial



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expressions. Firstly, what is abstract dance? Secondly, why is it important for dancers to develop their acting skills?

6. Would you describe the dance style of *Peaky Blinders* as abstract contemporary? Explain your answer.

Task 3

Sweet Charity (full title: *Sweet Charity: The Adventures of a Girl Who Wanted to Be Loved*) is a 1969 American musical comedy-drama film directed and choreographed by Bob Fosse. One very iconic dance number from this film is 'The Rich Man's Frug'.

Firstly, watch 'The Rich Man's Frug' - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcrZIK3gqbU>

Then, write 250 words on the background and context of 'The Rich Man's Frug', also mentioning some of the choreographic devices used in this piece. Please use the internet to help you.

Finally, produce a Bob Fosse fact file or mind map. This should be no more than one side of A4. You do not need to write in full sentences, write in note form and cover the following: early training and background, influences, choreographic intention, choreographic approach, main contributions to American jazz and stylistic features.

Task 4

Prepare a one-minute dance solo in any style to show in the first week.

Getting Equipped

You will need the following:

- Appropriate clothes to dance in, i.e. close fitting but non-restrictive, no jeans
- Pen/pencil – you will be given an exercise book to write in
- Folder/plastic wallet for handouts
- Water