

UCWDC® Judge Certification Partner Dance Curriculum

Section 2: Fundamental: Newcomer & Novice Levels

Waltz, Nightclub, Triple Two, Polka, Cha Cha, East Coast Swing, Two Step, and West Coast Swing

Please note that the examiner will form questions based on your expectations of a newcomer/novice dancer whilst judging

I. Footwork and Movement for Newcomer & Novice

A. Parts of the Feet

1. Toe, inside toe, outside toe
2. Ball, inside ball, outside ball
3. Heel, inside heel, outside heel
4. Flat, inside edge, outside edge

B. Positions of Feet

1. 1st
 - a. Feet together in line
 - b. Feet together turned out
2. 2nd
 - a. Feet apart (under hips)
 - b. Feet extended (outside hips)
3. 3rd
 - a. Forward foot heel to back foot
(Turned out) instep
 - b. Feet extended
 - c. Locked
4. 4th
 - a. Feet apart in-line
 - b. Walking forward with brush
 - c. Walking backward with brush
5. 5th
 - a. Both feet turned out, heel to toe
 - b. Feet extended
 - c. Locked
6. Open & Contra Body Movement Position (OBMP & CBMP)
 - a. OBMP: With left foot forward, left side of the body is also forward or with right foot forward, right side of the body also is forward.

- b. CBMP: With left foot forward, right side of the body is forward, or with right foot forward, left side of the body is forward.

C. Use of Foot/Ankle/Leg

- 1. Actions
 - a. Forward actions
 - b. Backward actions
 - c. Side actions
- 2. Application in a smooth dance and a rhythm dance.

D. Movement Concepts Definitions:

- 1. Movement Definitions
 - a. Balance
 - b. Preparation
 - c. Centers & Columns
 - d. Energy
 - e. Body Flight
 - f. Shaping

E. Alignments

- 1. Directional Alignments
 - a. Facing
 - b. Backing
 - c. Against
 - d. Pointing
- 2. Movement Alignment
 - a. Line of Dance
 - b. Diagonal Wall
 - c. Diagonal Center
 - d. Wall
 - e. Center
- 3. To Partner
 - a. Position of each partner with relation to each other.
 - b. Center and Common Centers.

II. Posture and Frame

A. Posture and Carriage

- 1. States of Posture
 - a. Poise is the position of the body when still.
 - b. Carriage is the position of the body when moving across steps.
 - c. During movement, the carriage of the body transitions positionally which facilitates the desired direction and movement.
- 2. Alignment of Spine

- a. Skeletal Considerations
 - i. Cervical (Neck)
 - ii. Thoracic (Upper Back)
 - iii. Lumbar (Lower Back)
 - iv. Sacral (Tail Bone)

B. Rotation of the Spine

- 1. Torque: Rotation of spine which creates energy to initiate movement.
- 2. Initiates linear, rotational, and connecting movements.

C. Framed Positions

- 1. Closed Positions
 - a. Basic Closed Position
 - b. Left & Right Offset (Inside Partner)
 - c. Closed Right & Left Parallel (Outside Partner)
 - d. Closed Promenade & Counter Promenade
 - e. Fan Position
- 2. Open Positions
 - a. Facing
 - b. Right & Left Parallel
 - c. Open Promenade/Counter Prom (Open Left & Right Prom)
 - d. Fan Position
 - e. Shadow
- 3. Shine Positions
 - a. Facing
 - b. Side by Side
 - c. Shadow

III. Turn Technique for Newcomer & Novice

A. Preparation

- 1. Foot Prep
- 2. Body Prep

B. Initiation of Turn

- 1. Contra Body Movement (CBM)
- 2. Open Body Movement (OBM)

C. Types of Turns

- 1. Stationary Turns
 - a. Walk around (Spot turn)
 - b. Spin (ex. tuck turn)
 - c. Spiral
 - d. Twist Turn vs Cross/Hook Turn
 - e. Platform

- f. Fan
- 2. Progressive Turns
 - a. Chainé
 - b. Pivot (open & closed)
 - c. Heel Turn
 - d. Heel Pivot & Toe Pivot
- 3. Arced Turns
 - a. French Cross

D. Spotting Technique

- 1. Stationary spotting technique
- 2. Straight line spotting technique
- 3. Circular spotting technique

E. Execution of Turns

- 1. Initiate Rotation
- 2. Finish Rotation
- 3. Connecting with movement before and after rotation.

IV. Partnership Movement Principles

A. Lead/Follow

- 1. Preparation of desired movement and response to the prep.
- 2. Lead of the desired movement.
- 3. Follow the movement.
- 4. Follow through of leader in response to follower movement.
- 5. Finish: Phrase ending (novice and above only), continuation of movement, or transition to another movement.

V. Styling for Newcomer and Novice

A. Arm Styling

- 1. Arm positions (based on the dance style)
- 2. Basic arm styling principles (how and where they develop and why)

B. Basic Shapes and Body Lines

- 1. Principles and demonstration (how and where they develop and why)

VI. Floor Craft for Newcomer and Novice

A. Floor Entry & Exit

- 1. Taking Place on the floor in order of announcement.
- 2. Honoring space of others when choosing placement.
- 3. Exiting in performance mode

B. Flow of Dance

- 1. Floor Etiquette
- 2. Floor Usage
- 3. Movement Management



VII. Music for Newcomer and Novice

A. Basic Structure of Music:

1. Notes, Measures & Phrases
2. Baseline rhythm & accents

VIII. Choreography for Newcomer and Novice

A. Foundational Elements

1. Appropriateness (Level, age and style)
2. Content which reflects the elements of the dance
3. Partnership (Lead/Follow)
4. Appropriate continuity, flow and development
5. Use of phrasing (Novice only)

IX. Teams

X. Application of Rules & Methodology - Newcomer & Novice

A. Rules

1. Starting position
2. Basic timing
3. Rules for Newcomer and Novice
4. Mixed Role
5. Rules changes

B. Methodology Chart

1. Newcomer
2. Novice

C. Ethics/Code of Conduct

D. Ballot Training