

SIMPLY DONE

INTRODUCTION

This is the second in the series of Simply Done resources. All about Motif writing for Component 2.

Motifs are an integral part of choreography for GCSE. It is also the main part of Section A in the written paper. And in Section B, they are asked to write about their own work.

Before embarking on motif work, it is absolutely paramount that the students know all the Performance and Choreographic skills. Have you seen our *Know the Skills* Resource? <https://arts-pool.co.uk/product/know-the-skills/>

With a solid knowledge of the skills, they will be able to respond well in the studio and in the classroom.

Section A on the written paper is a choreography question. Understanding the question is very important.

1. They are given a stimulus
2. They are told how many dancers to use
3. They must create a dance idea based on the stimulus
4. All answers MUST link back to the dance idea they create
5. A range of questions relating to the dance based on the dance idea

In their own choreography they need to be creative and imaginative. To help, we have a *Choreography Tool Kit*. <https://arts-pool.co.uk/product/choreography-tool-kit/>

This a very neat kit, that will help to inspire them when creating their motifs. It will prompt them to add in different features and aspects.

When writing motifs for the written paper, they do not need to be imaginative or creative. They just need to be quick at responding to the given stimulus, think of their idea, again doesn't need to be creative, just fit to the given stimulus and then probably have to create a motif linking to the stimulus and the dance idea.

Let's begin with where we left off in Simply Done 1...

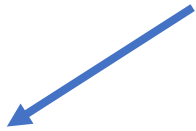
STIMULUS



DANCE IDEA



MOTIF



CHOREOGRAPHY

CREATIVE

IMAGINATIVE

FULL OF DANCE
ELEMENTS

THINK OUTSIDE
THE BOX

ON PAPER

BABY MOTIF

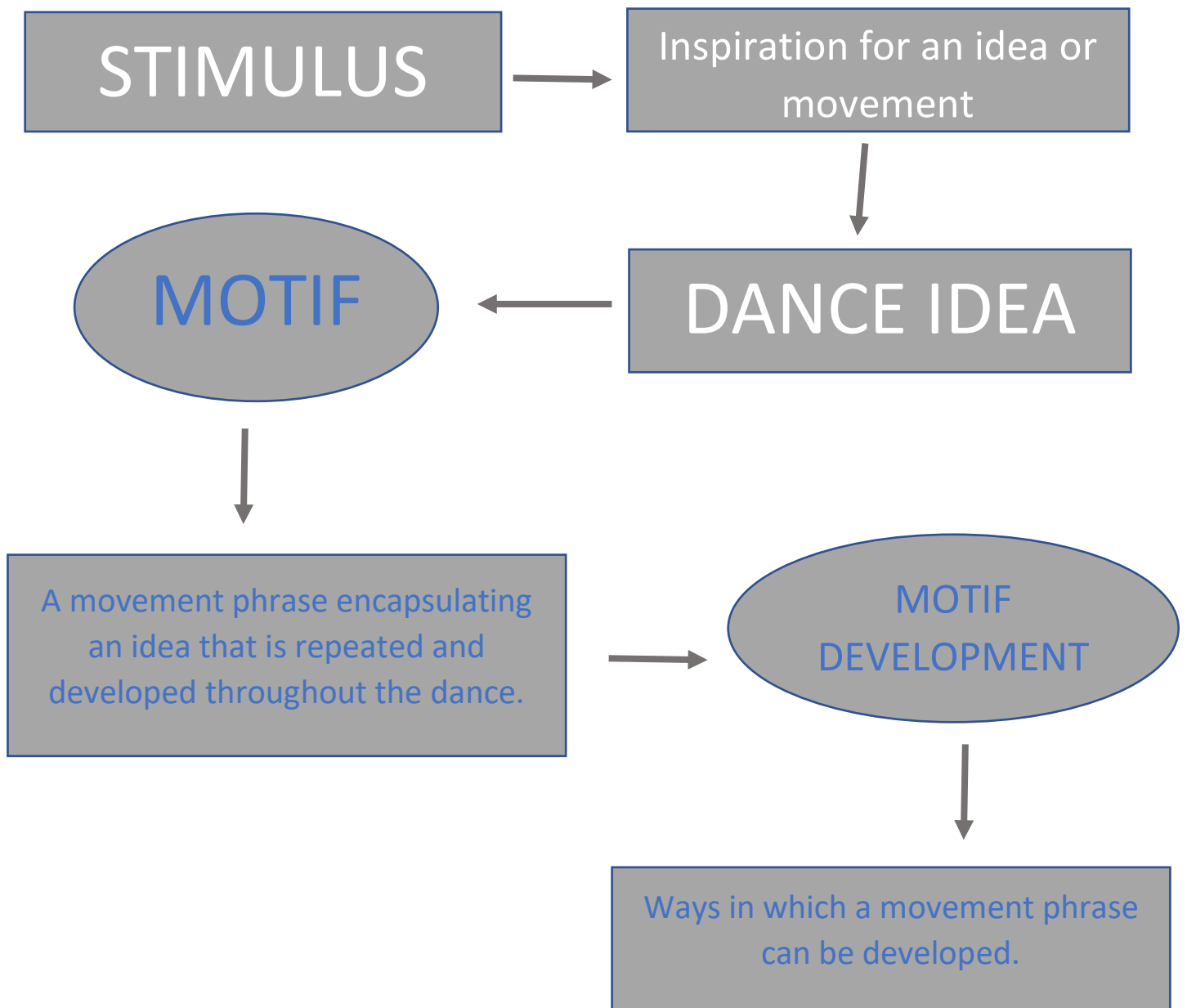
VERY SIMPLE

3 ACTIONS

1 SPACE

2 DYNAMICS

MUST
RELATE
TO THE
DANCE
IDEA



HOW TO DO THIS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

ACTIONS

SPACE

DYNAMICS

RELATIONSHIPS

CHOREOGRAPHIC DEVICES

STRUCTURE

AURAL SETTINGS

PERFORMANCE ENVIRONMENTS

HOW TO WRITE A MOTIF

Short and to the point

No extended writing

Don't be over creative

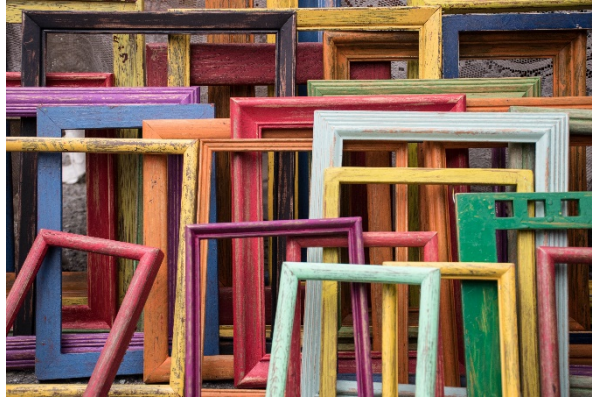
2 sentences are enough

3 actions

1 space

2 dynamics

EXAMPLE



You are choreographing a dance for 3 performers using this image as the stimulus.

1. Outline a dance idea or theme that you could consider from this stimulus [1 mark]
2. Describe a motif you could choreograph for this dance. Your answer should refer to actions, space and dynamics [3 marks]
TIP: Describe this step by step
3. Give three ways you could develop the motif you have described. [3 marks]
4. Give two relationships you could use in your trio. [2 marks]
5. Give one way in which one relationship you identified communicates your choreographic intent. [1 mark]
6. Identify the type of structure that could be appropriate for your dance [1 mark]
7. Give two ways in which this structure links to your chosen dance idea. [2 marks]

KEEP IT SIMPLE

RESPONSE

1. Dance idea – Reflective, looking back at past memories
2. Starting USL (S), swiftly (D) run (A) in a semi-circle to centre front, spin (A) to the left, lunge (A) sharply (D) sideways to the left.
3.
 - i. I would **change the direction** of the swift run to DSR
 - ii. I would **take out** the spin
 - iii. I would **change the dynamics**, making the sharp lunge slow, reaching strongly to the right.
4. I would use counterpoint and contact (No explanation, just identify them)
5. I would use counterpoint to show the difference between the past and the present.
6. I would use Ternary (no explanation, just identify)
7. By using Ternary, the first section would be reflecting to the past, the second section would be the present and the third section would look to the future.

TIP: When developing the motif, make sure you identify how you are changing it (i), then the bit you are changing (ii) and finally what you are changing it to (iii).

- i. METHOD
- ii. ORIGINAL
- iii. NEW

As you can see, it isn't particularly creative, but it works.

OPTIONS TO DEVELOP MOTIFS

Change the dynamics

Change the direction

Change the levels

Add/remove an action

Change the order

TYPES OF AURAL SETTING

Spoken word

Silence

Instrumental

Body percussion

Orchestral

Found sound

Song

Natural sounds