

A-Level Dance transition work 2026

The Context Deep-Dive

A-Level Dance demands an understanding of *context*. You will need to understand that Gene Kelly was dancing in a post-WWII economic boom of American optimism, whereas Bob Fosse was creating work during the social disillusionment, sexual revolution, and gritty realism of the 1960s and 70s - this is giving you the 'context' behind the work.



Task: Research and create a contextual profile (digital or poster format) comparing the eras of Gene Kelly and Bob Fosse. Answer the following to support your work:

- What was happening in American society when *Singin' in the Rain* was released versus when Fosse was choreographing *Sweet Charity* or *Chicago*?
- How did the film industry change? (e.g., Hollywood's Golden Age vs. the rise of edgy Broadway and New Hollywood).

Bob Fosse Solo Choreography Task: The Fragmented Body

Choreograph a 45–60 second solo that focuses on micro-movements, inverted alignment, and the rhythmic isolation of individual body parts, utilising a stylised accessory to restrict and frame the movement.

The Concept of Minimalism & The Accessory

Fosse did not choreograph massive phrases that travelled across the studio. He often kept dancers fixed in one spot, forcing the audience to focus on a single twitch of the shoulder or angle of the wrist.

Select a Fosse Accessory: Choose one item that acts as an anatomical frame to support your solo work.

Examples: A bowler hat (or trilby), a pair of white gloves, a cane, or a tight waistcoat/blazer.

Eg: The Cane: Much like the top hat and cane sketching shown below, canes were used to create clean, sharp, linear angles that contrast the fluid, organic lines of traditional dance styles. Dancers would use a cane to sharply anchor themselves into the floor, emphasising a low, tilted pelvis or a stark, turned-in pigeon-toed stance.

