

Essex Dance Theatre

Ballet Vocabulary

Student's Name:

Ballet Theory

BALLET THEORY

GRADE ONE **AT THE BARRE**

Demi

Half

Plie

To bend

Battement

To beat

Grand

Large

Tendu

To stretch

En Croix

In the shape of a cross

Retire

To draw up

POSITION OF THE ARMS

Bras bas

En avant

A la Seconde

Attitude

En Couronne

Demi Bras

GRADE TWO

REVISE PREVIOUS GRADE THEORY

En face	Facing the front
Ouverte	Open (same corner as front foot)
Croise	Crossed (opposite corner to front foot)
De Cote	Sideways
En Avant	Coming forwards
En Arrière	Going backwards
Grand Battement	Large beat
Ronde de jambe	Round with the leg
A Terre	On the ground
En Dehors	Outwards
Assemble	To assemble (to join together)
Soutenu	Sustained
Retire	To draw up
Relevé	To snatch
En L'air	In the air
Glissade	To glide
Pas de Chat	Step of a cat
Pas de Basque	Step of the Basque
Balance	Waltz step, to balance
Echappe	To escape

MUSIC SECTION Note value of:

Semi Breve	4
Minim	2
Crochet	1
Quaver	1/2

GRADE THREE

REVISE THEORY FROM PREVIOUS GRADE

Frappe	To strike
Développé	To unfold
Echappe	To escape
Passé	To pass
Coupe	To cut
Sissonnes	Scissor like
Ouvert	Open
Pas De Bourre	A running step
Petit	Small

MUSIC SECTION

The common time signature is $\frac{3}{4}$

Walz	Has an “ongoing” feeling, 1 st beat is accented
Clap	<u>1</u> 2 3 <u>2</u> 2 3 <u>3</u> 2 3 <u>4</u> 2 3
The Minuet	A stately feeling, rather prim sounding
The Mazurka	Extremely Vigorous, 2 nd beat is accented
Clap	1 <u>2</u> 3 2 <u>2</u> 3 3 <u>2</u> 3 4 <u>2</u> 3

GRADE FOUR

REVISE THEORY FROM PREVIOUS GRADE

Sur le cou de pied On the neck of the foot

Fondu To melt

Épaulement Use of the shoulders

En Tournant Turning

Temps Lie Time Linked

Battue Ferme To beat as you close

MUSIC SECTION

The common time signature is $\frac{3}{4}$

Gallop 2/4 – Lively

Gavotte 4/4 – Starts on 3rd beat of the bar, Stately.

Tarantella 6/8 – Fast and Fiery

GRADE FIVE AND SIX
REVISE THEORY FROM PREVIOUS GRADE

Frappe	To strike
Fouette	To whip
A deux bras	With two arms
A terre	On the ground
Demi Pointe	½ point
Balone	Balloon like
Simple	Simple
Compose	Complex
Full contretemps	Coupe, Chase. Temps Leve, Chasse
Ordinaire	Ordinary
Passe	To pass
Ferme	To close
Echappe Battue Ouverte	Beating before the jump to 2 nd To escape, beat, open
Couru	To run
Trois	Three, refers to the beat
Dessus	Over
Dessous	Under
Raccourci	Shortened, Sharp
Pirouette	To whirl
En round	Going around
En cloche	Like a Pendulum

“AN AID TO THE FRENCH TERMINOLOGY”

Plie	To bend (both knees)
Demi	Half
Petit	Small
Grand	Large
Battement	Beat
Tendu	Stretch
Glisse	Glide
Ronde de Jambe	Round of the leg
Assemble	To assemble
Soutneu	To sustain
En rond	Round
Frappe	Strike
Fondu	To sink
Retire	To withdraw
Developpe	To unfold
Fouette	Whip
En cloche	As a bell
Echappe	To escape
Sautes	To jump
Jete	To throw
Degage	To disengage
Chasse	To chase
Sautes	To jump

Temps lie	“time linked” – linking movement
Detourness	To turn aside
Glissades	To glide
Ballone	To bounce
Pas de Basque	Step of the basque’s
Balance	To balance or rock
Pas de Chat	Step of a cat
Changement	To change
Coupe	To cut
Quatre	Four
Battu	To beat
En Croix	In the shape of a cross
En Dedans	Inwards
En Dehors	Outwards
A terre	On the ground
En l’air	In the air
Devant	In front
Derriere	Behind
En avant	Going forward
En arriere	Going backwards
A la second	To the second position
De cote	To the side
Croise	Crossed
Ouverte	Open
En face	To the front
Dessus	Under

Dessous	Over
Port de Bras	Carriage of the arms
Adage	Slow sustained movement
Pirouettes	Turns
Allegro	Brisk, light movements
Batteriere	Beaten work
Enchainemnets	Steps linked together; an amalgamation of steps
Sur le coup de pied	On the ankle
Change	To change
Ferme	To close
Simple/Ordinaire	Simple and ordinary
Pose	To step
Releve	To rise