

MILITARY



APPEARANCE

Neatness

- Grooming
- Appropriateness
- No holes/Runs/Etc.
- Clean lines
- Visual effects with costume design
- Costume compliments routine

Hair

- Effective style with choreography
- No distraction during movement
- Hairpieces, if worn, are effective

Accessories

- Effective style/use with choreography

Make up

- Enhances natural beauty of dancers
- Compliments style of dance
- Enhances showmanship (not distracting)

Uniformity

- Costumes similar or compliment each other
- Costumes/accessories create a unified effect
- Promotes an image of ONE on the floor (not distracting w/ too much going on)

SHOWMANSHIP

Esprit de Corps

- Feeling of pride in belonging to team
- Team has a feeling of unity & enthusiasm
- Team is portraying same emotion/energy

Eye Contact

- Dancers have the confidence to connect with judges and audience
- Connection continues with focus changes – contact with audience

Confidence

- Stage presence
- Poise –Mental mistakes minimal w/ quick recoveries
- Body projection – use of upper body not just heads & chins

Style

- Compliments music selection
- Personality
- Audience Appeal – Aesthetic quality

Posture

- Body alignment
- Carriage

Authenticity/Emotion

- Facial expressions believable – Do they add or detract
- Commitment to story/emotion – Are dancers “Selling it?”
- Stay in character throughout routine regardless of position on floor
- Sustained throughout routine
- Is emotion appropriate for dancers in this venue?
- Overall performance is genuine & sincere

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CHOREOGRAPHY

Military Focus

- Pinwheels
- Block formations
- Ranks & Files
- Pivots/Flanks
- Military transitions
- Emphasis on PRECISION
- Variety of Kicks, Ripples, Marching techniques/Footwork
- No dance steps should be used—No jazz hands, head rolls, body rolls, hip movements, jazz runs, pyramids, arch backs, jumps/leaps, tumbling, turns
- If lifts are incorporated it is recommended that they be kept to a MINIMUM! (Don't waste 16-32,48,64, etc counts on ineffective lifts when you could be doing interesting military choreography)
- If any of the above are used it should NOT detract from the military precision focus
- Emphasis is on sharp clean movements

Continuity

- Connection between sections of choreography
- Fluidity
- Unchanging **quality** throughout routine (MILITARY)
- Seamless transitions

Musical Interpretation

- Choreography flows and compliments the music/Phrasing
- Interesting beats/accents with choreography create dynamics
- Music translates well into the choreography

Variety

- Creativity or too predictable?
- Originality/Innovative
- Unison v. Groups/Ripples/Canons
- Phrasing/Tempo variations/Rhythms
- Change of pace
- Dynamics/Energy
- Marching styles/Use of lower body
- Head, Arm, Hand, Torso, Leg, Foot movements
- Good use of dancers' abilities

Visual Effects

- Creates an interesting image on floor by manipulating floor space, timing, shapes, angles, levels, focus, etc. (formations)
- Moments of, "AWE" or "WOW" because of image on floor, not by technique/skill
- Dynamics—variety of movement qualities

Transitions

- Movements between formations or sections of routine
- Fluid/seamless change between phrases
- Variety/creative
- Good use of floor patterns within the transitions
- Should not interfere with continuity of routine—logical pathways for dancers
- Continue with style of routine (MILITARY)

Staging

- Floorpatterns/Groups/Blocks
- Level changes/Floorwork
- Formations
- Use of area/Dimensions
- Directional changes
- Spatial Manipulation

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DIFFICULTY

Ambidexterity

- Ability to use each side of the body equally well
- Skills/Technique performed on left & right sides
- General skillfulness—challenging movement/skills
- Account for # of dancers showing ambidexterity
- Be aware of although travelling two directions, if some dancers are facing back they are still working same side—not ambidextrous

Rhythms

- Intricate tempo variations
- Dynamics
- Syncopation
- Unusual meters/Time signatures ie. Triplets, fives, sevens, etc

Flexibility

- Suppleness, Liteness, Fluidity, Extension
- Variety of positions/skills that show flexibility
- Watch technique —no cheating

Intricacy & Maneuvering of Formations

- Floor patterns create interesting shapes
- Interesting pathways and transitions between formations
- Transitions are visually effective and logical
- Dancers follow an organized pathway in transition
- Use of area/Dimensions
- Incorporate variety of marching techniques/pivots/flanks
- Some formations make precision for team more difficult

Endurance

- Energy
- Strength& completion of movement throughout routine
- Body control throughout routine
- Difficulty distributed throughout routine
- Pace of performance
- Athletic demands of routine

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EXECUTION

Body Control

- Core Strength
- Balance
- Motion placement
- Watch hyperextension in joints & back
- Alignment/Placement
- Individual precision

Unison/Timing

- Individual musicality—correct timing of steps
- Completion of movement
- Phrasing/Rhythm
- Working together as a team
- Completion of movement

Dynamics

- Variety in movement qualities performed
- Are the dynamics choreographed clearly performed by all dancers?
- Movements tight, sharp & bound
- Slow & sustained

Spacing

- Formation alignment
- Straight ranks and files
- Even distribution of negative & positive space in formations
- Spacing on floor/use of area
- Dancer spatial awareness during transitions—move as a team
- Awareness of levels and directions

Precision

- Team alignment of head, torso, arms, legs, etc.
- Absence of mental mistakes
- Uniformity of kick heights
- Synchronization
- Clear formations and floor patterns
- Articulate, precise footwork
- Strong, intense clear angles

Military Technique

- Movements should have a “bound” feel—energy comes from the core not peripheral extremities/joints
- Tight core including hips & shoulders
- Strong controlled head flips—Don’t rebound
- Most movement coming from parallel rather than turn out from hips
- Precise footwork in marching styles
- Clean precise closures on pivots/flanks/halts
- Passe' marches have foot to knee
- Clean lines through wrists and hands
- Tights fingers at all times when using blades
- Strong tight fists
- Strong controlled slaps & arm movements –Don’t rebound
- Flat splits, sitting up tall, knees extended and feet stretched through arch
- Consider kick technique (see kick definitions sheet)