

Grade 6 Ballet - Knowledge of the purpose of the exercises on the barre

What is the purpose of performing pliés at the beginning of a ballet class?

Pliés help to warm up all the muscles in the legs, strengthen the legs, establish turnout and sustain the upright position of the body.

What is the purpose of grand battements en cloche?

The main purpose of grand battements is to loosen and strengthen the legs. Loosens the hip socket and strengthens the front thigh muscle (quadriceps). En cloche means bell like preparation for grand allegro.

What is the purpose of the preparatory exercise for fouetté rond de jambe en tournant?

This exercise helps to establish co-ordination and balance ready for turning - pas de deux turning work (double work), turning fouettés in the centre

What is the purpose of battements sur le cou-de-piéd?

This exercise develops speed and control in the use of the lower leg, preparatory to beaten steps- entréchants, you are effectively doing an entréchant with one foot. It also helps understanding of how some parts of the leg can move independently of the others.

What is the purpose of exercise for fouetté of adage?

All adage movements help to develop the slow, smooth control of the legs and the strengthening of the back. The fouetté requires the ability to use the hinge-like movement of the torso and the hip joint as the working leg circles from side to back, and to centre the weight over the supporting leg.

What is the purpose of the demi pointe enchainments on the barre?

These strengthen feet and legs and prepare for pirouettes and pointe work.

Contretemps means against time – coupé under, chassé en avant, temps levé in arabesque, chassé passé en avant.

Fermeé means closed.