**“Consider the place of West Side Story in the context of Jerome Robbins career in terms of subject matter and genre. You should refer to a range of works.”**

My Plan

WSS – subject matter

Immigration

Gang rivalry

Love

Romeo and Juliet

WSS – Genre

Musical Theatre

Narrative

Jerome Robbins’ career

Pre WSS

**Examiners report**

Can use a diagram

As in previous years, the more successful responses showed a focus on the question with detailed knowledge and understanding of the area of study or set work, a coherent structure and clarity in the written expression. Connections were made between content and context with detailed supporting examples. In a number of responses diagrammatic form was used effectively to support the written analysis.

The less successful responses did not maintain focus on the question. Although some knowledge was demonstrated, there was a tendency to make general points focusing on identification and description. There were often inaccuracies in the content, particularly for Section A. Examples were limited and usually lacked sufficient detail to support the point. Written expression was marred by poor spelling and a lack of clarity in the use of English.

It is important to allow an equal amount of time for each of the two questions in order to provide a sufficient response to access the range of marks across the paper.

This year there was a clear improvement in the quality of essay writing. There was a sense of style in the writing and a logical argument with a relevant introduction, sense of progression and concluding paragraph. However, poor handwriting makes the essays very difficult to read and can affect the communication of content.

“Before Robbins was born, his parents moved from Russia and immigrated to America. Experiencing growing up in a society his family isn’t particularly familiar with highlights on the immigrants in West Side Story, trying to settle in and not getting along with the natives.”

***The narrative of WSS is influenced by Robbins’ parents immigrating to America before he was born. Audiences could identify with this through the subject matter of immigration which was occurring at the time. Robbins development of this narrative had been honed from experiences in his early career such as his studies at Sandor Sorel Center, Camp Tamiment revues and early choreographed productions such as Fancy Free, (1944) and The King and I, (1951).***

Camp Taniment helped Jerome Robbins express a sense of narrative through his works from the revues themselves. This helped with WSS as it shows how a story is told throughout the movements performed, for example looking around is used to show how the characters are continuously on watch, also the leaps and jumps show authentic and a sense of movement.