



# YMCA Awards

Level 3 Bespoke exercise  
programme design  
2018

# Level 3 Bespoke exercise programme design

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## Postural assessment

## Learning outcomes

By the end of this session you will be able to:

- Explain how an analysis of posture could inform programme design
- Demonstrate knowledge of optimum posture with reference to anatomical terms of location
- Identify postural deviations, with reference to anatomical terms of location
- Identify methods of analysing both static and dynamic posture
- Identify appropriate methods of correcting postural deviations that are limiting the client ability

## Postural analysis

- Postural dysfunction creates:
  - Movement restriction
  - Imbalances
  - Misalignment
  - Injury risk
- Postural dysfunction has a compounding effect on both the efficiency of movement and the aesthetic representation of the body

# Postural analysis

- Analysis of posture will influence exercise selection
  - Strengthening areas
  - Stretching areas



# Postural analysis

Be aware of:

- Optimum posture with reference to anatomical terms of location
- Ideal posture from the anatomic position
- Awareness of common deviations in posture

# Neutral posture assessment

## Lateral view

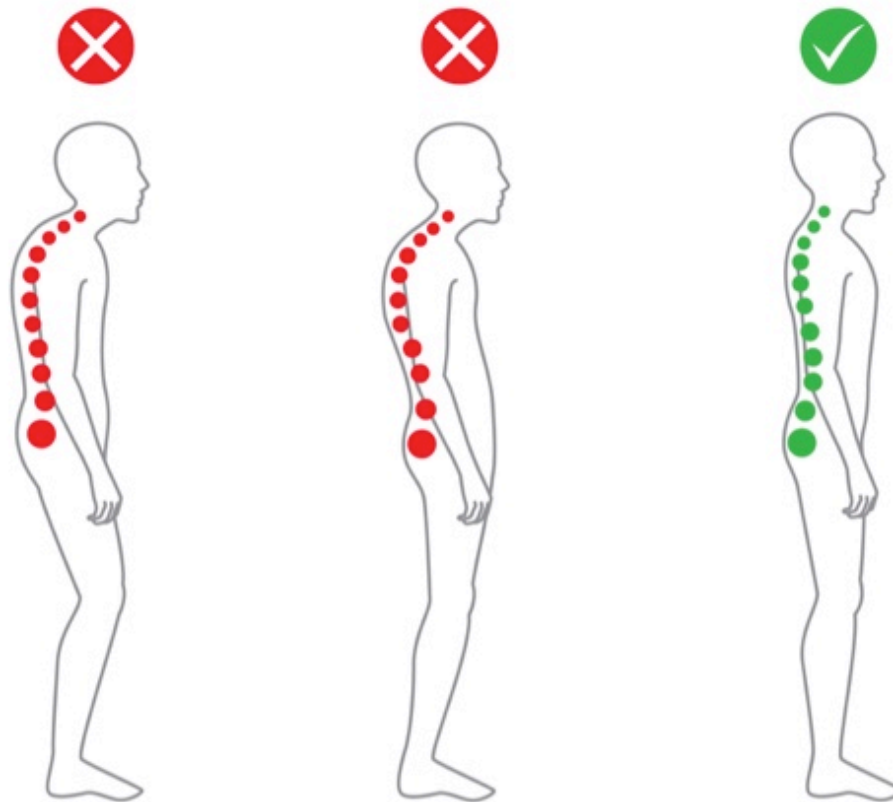
If an imaginary plumb line were hung from the top of the head, it would pass through:

- The ear lobe
- The centre of shoulder
- The elbow
- The centre of hip
- Slightly anterior to midline of knee
- Slightly anterior to ankle bone

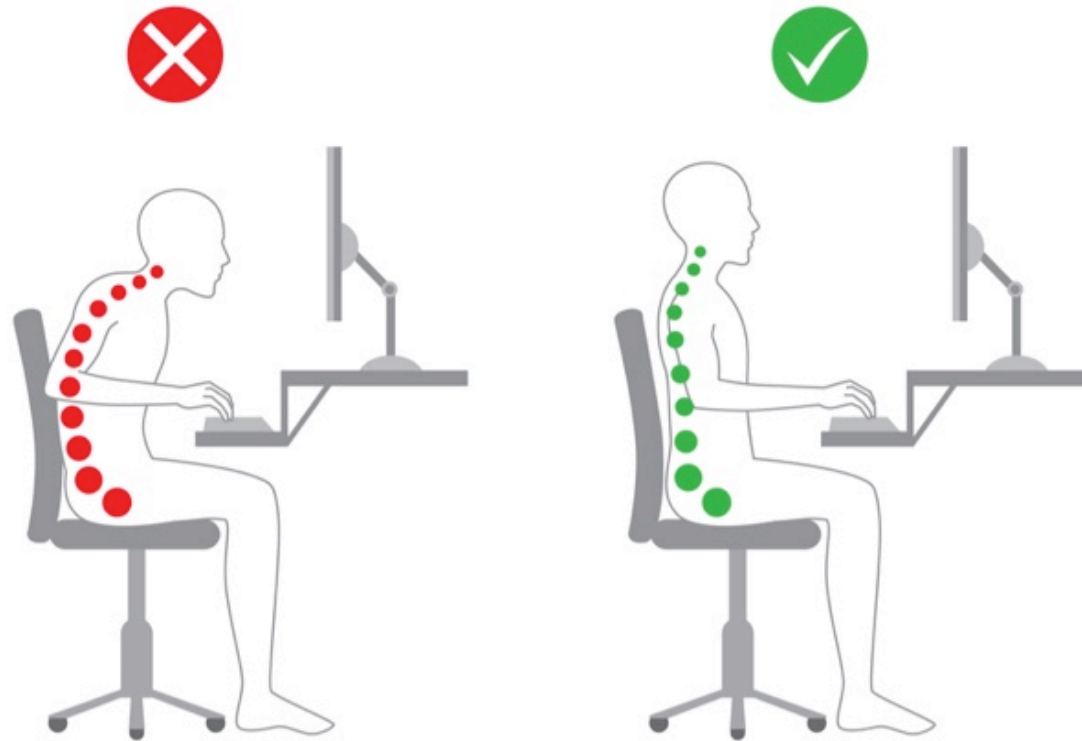




# Postural analysis



## Postural analysis



## Neutral posture

The body works most efficiently in a neutrally aligned posture

Any kind of imbalance will affect:

- Muscular length-tension relationships
- Joint movement and stresses
- Nervous input (sensory information) and output (motor responses)

Leading to injury and dysfunction

## Dynamic posture

- The position the body is in at any moment during a movement pattern
- A snap shot of the body during a movement
- For example
- Assessing movement is important if you are going to load it and if you load inefficient movements you simply increase the risk of injuring clients

## Dynamic posture analysis

The following assessments can be completed:

- Client putting their hands above their head
- Client sitting down on the edge of a chair and getting up again
- Client standing on one leg
- Client attempting any form of push up they think they are capable of

## Dynamic posture analysis

- Each of these tasks involve some element or all of a primary movement pattern and are common tasks that will give a good view of the natural movements of a client
- It is important to just ask the client to perform the movement and watch how they do it, rather than telling them what you want them to do or showing them
- This is because you want to see their natural movement patterns

## **Scoliosis**

- A spine with an excessive sideways curve
- More common in women than in men

## **Hyperkyphosis**

- Excessive forward curvature in the upper region of the spine
- Affects more men than women
- The spine may be curved due to Scheuermann's disease or by poor posture and/or getting older

## Hyperlordosis

- Excessive arched posture in the lower region of the spine
- May be caused by genetic conditions like achondroplasia, or by environmental factors such as obesity
- Common amongst professional dancers, who can develop curvature of the spine due to the amount of stress they exert on that part of the body



# Upper crossed syndrome

- Head pokes forward.
- Spine is hyperkyphotic.
- Shoulders are protracted.
- Shortened and lengthened musculatures form a 'cross' shape

# Upper crossed syndrome

Lengthened/inhibited/underactive muscles

- Deep neck flexors (longus capitis and colli) Serratus anterior
- Lower and middle trapezius
- Teres minor
- Infraspinatus and supraspinatus
- Thoracic erector spinae

# Upper crossed syndrome

Shortened/dominant/overactive muscles

- Scalenes
- Sternocleidomastoid
- Upper trapezius
- Levator scapulae
- Pectoralis major
- Anterior deltoids
- Latissimus dorsi
- Teres major
- Subscapularis
- Pectoralis minor)

## Lower crossed syndrome

- Anterior pelvic tilt
- Spine is hyperlordotic
- Shortened and lengthened musculatures form a 'cross' shape

## Lower crossed syndrome

Lengthened/inhibited/underactive muscles

- Rectus abdominis
- Obliques
- Transversus abdominis
- Gluteus maximus, medius and minimus

# Lower crossed syndrome

Shortened/dominant/overactive muscles

- Iliopsoas
- Lumbar erector spinae
- Rectus femoris
- Adductors
- Tensor fasciae latae
- Quadratus lumborum
- Lumbar multifidus

## **Sway back**

- Head pokes forward
- Short and overactive upper trapezius
- Short and tight pectorals
- Lengthened and inactive lower trapezius, middle trapezius and rhomboids
- Posterior deltoid lengthened
- Hip flexor lengthened
- Reduced lumbar curve
- Short and tight hamstrings

## **Flat back**

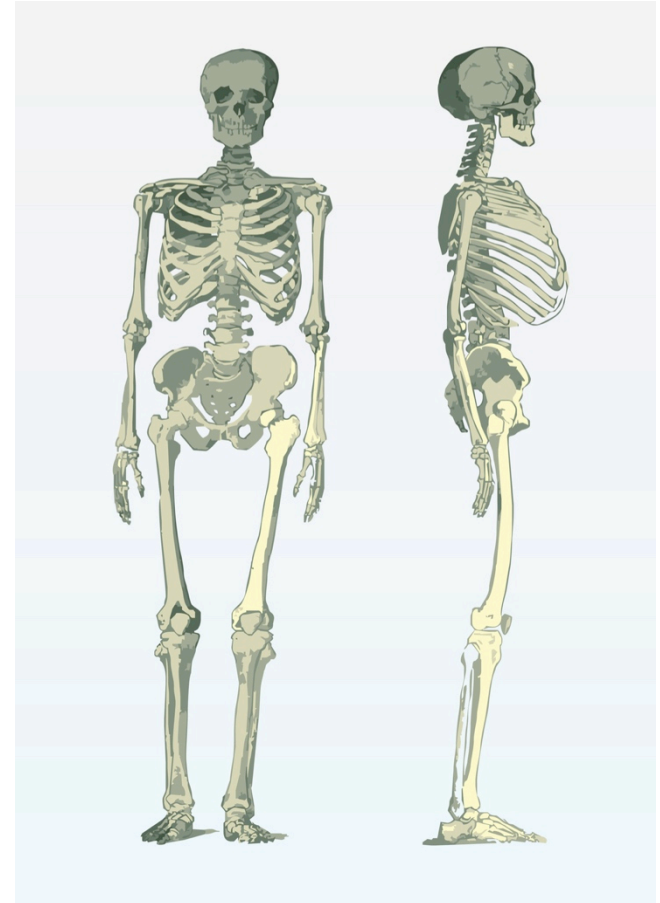
- Flattened lumbar curve
- Stiffness in lumbar spine
- Posterior tilt of pelvis
- Hip flexors lengthened
- Hamstrings tight
- Rectus abdominis tight



## Neutral posture assessment

### Anterior view

- Asymmetry
  - Shoulders
  - Hips
- Knee over second/third toe
- Feet turned out
- Arch of foot - supinated/pronated



# Neutral posture assessment

## Posterior view

- Asymmetry
  - Shoulders
  - Hips
- Feet turned out
- Arch of foot-supinated/pror



# Correcting postural deviations that are limiting the client ability

- Strengthening protocols
- Stretching protocols
- Mobility
- Awareness
- Proprioception
- Stress
- Daily habits
- Nutrition



