AQA GCSE DRAMA

COMPONENT 1 – UNDERSTANDING DRAMA (WRITTEN EXAM)

40% OF THE GCSE FRADE! 1 hour 45 minutes

SECTION C

DO THIS SECTION FIRST!

*Spend 30-35 minutes on this section*

Live Theatre Review

1 question – 32 marks

You will answer about *Billy Elliot*

* Introduction paragraph
* Paragraph 1

*Point (The moment your chosen character was successful)*

***Describe*** *what they did in lots of detail! Use key drama terminology!*

***Analyse*** *what they did – why did they do it that way? What effect did it have? How did it make you feel?*

***Evaluate*** *what they did. Was it good? Why/why not?*

* Paragraph 2 (repeat the above with second moment)
* Paragraph 3 (repeat the above with third moment)
* Conclusion paragraph

SECTION A

DO THIS SECTION LAST!

Even if you are unsure have a go as it is multiple choice.

*Spend 5-10 minutes on this section*

Theatre roles and Terminology

4 multiple choice questions – 4 marks

You may be asked about…

* Roles and responsibilities
* Stage positioning
* Types of staging

See the other side of the page for revision for this section.

SECTION B

DO THIS SECTION SECOND!

*Spend 1 hour on this section*

Study of a set text

*Blood Brothers*

4 questions – 44 marks

You will be provided with a key extract from the play for questions 6.1, 6.2, 6.3

6.1 Design

You will be asked to design an element of performance support for a key extract in the play. This MUST show your knowledge of the context of the play (4 marks)

6.2 Key line of text

You will be asked to describe how you would use your vocal and physical skills to deliver a line from the key extract (8 marks)

6.3 Highlighted extract

You will be asked to focus on a highlighted part of the key extract and imagine you are playing one of the characters. You will describe how you would use your theatrical skills to create mood/atmosphere on stage (12 marks)

6.4 Wider interpretation of a character

You will be asked to imagine you are playing a specific character in the play. You will be asked how you would use your theatrical skills to interpret this character. You MUST reference other sections in the play during this question, not just the key extract (20 marks)

Stage Positioning

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Upstage Right | Upstage Centre | Upstage Left |
| Stage Right | Centre | Stage Left |
| Downstage Right | Downstage Centre | Downstage Left |

Types of staging

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of stage** | **Description** | **Picture** |
| Proscenium Arch | End on staging with an arch surrounding the stage. |  |
| End on | The staging we have at school. The audience sits directly facing the stage. |  |
| Thrust | The audience sits on three sides of the stage.  |  |
| Traverse  | The audience sit on two sides of the stage. It is set out like a ‘catwalk.’  |  |
| In the round | The audience sit all ‘around’ the stage. |  |
| Promenade  | The audience follows the actors on feet, from one location to another.  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Theatre Maker** | **Roles and responsibilities**  |
| Playwright | This is the name given to the person who writes the play. |
| Performer | A performer is an actor or entertainer who realises a role or performance in front of an audience. |
| Understudy | An actor who studies another’s role so that they can take over when needed. |
| Lighting designer | The lighting designer is responsible for designing the lighting states and, if required, special lighting effects for a performance. The final design will result in a lighting plot which is a list of the lighting states and their cues. |
| Sound designer | The sound designer is responsible for designing the sound required for a performance. This may include underscoring, intro and outro music as well as specific effects. The final design will result in a sound plot which is a list of the sounds required and their cues. |
| Set designer | The set designer is responsible for the design of the set for a performance. They will work closely with the director and other designers so that there is unity between all the designs and the needs of the performance. |
| Costume designer | The person who designs the costumes for a performance. The costume department of a theatre is often called the wardrobe.  |
| Puppet designer | The person who designs the puppets for a performance. |
| Technician | A person who works backstage either setting up technical equipment such as microphones or rigging lights before a production or operating technical equipment during a performance. |
| Director | A director is in charge of the artistic elements of a production. A director will often have the initial creative idea (‘concept’) for a production, will work with the actors in rehearsal, and will collaborate with designers and the technical team to realise this idea in performance. |
| Stage manager | The Stage Manager is in charge of all aspects of backstage, including the backstage crew. They will oversee everything that happens backstage before, during and after a performance. During the rehearsal period, the Stage Manager and their team will make sure that all props are found or made, scene changes are rehearsed and smooth, and all other aspects of backstage are prepared. They are also in charge of the rehearsal schedule. |
| Theatre manager | This is the person who is responsible for and manages the front-of- house team who deal with the audience during the production (for example, the box office manager, ushers and similar staff). |