

GCSE Drama course overview

Component 1: Understanding drama

What's assessed

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre.
- Study of one set play from a choice of six.
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers.

Component 2: Devising drama (practical)

What's assessed

- Process of creating devised drama.
- Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer or designer).
- Analysis and evaluation of own work.

Component 3: Texts in practice (practical)

What's assessed

- Performance of two extracts from one play (students may contribute as performer or designer).
- Free choice of play but it must contrast with the set play chosen for Component 1.

The GCSE

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How it's assessed

- Written exam:
1 hour and 45 minutes
- Open book
- 80 marks
- 40 % of GCSE

Questions

- Section A: multiple choice (4 marks).
- Section B: four questions on a given extract from the set play chosen (44 marks).
- Section C: one question (from a choice) on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production (32 marks).

Component 2: Devising drama (practical)

What's assessed

- Process of creating devised drama.
- Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer or designer).
- Analysis and evaluation of own work.

How it's assessed

- Devising log (60 marks)
- Devised performance (20 marks)
- 80 marks in total
- 40 % of GCSE

This component is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

Component 3: Texts in practice (practical)

What's assessed

- Performance of two extracts from one play (students may contribute as performer or designer).

Free choice of play but it must contrast with the set play chosen for Component 1.

How it's assessed

- Performance of Extract 1 (20 marks) **and** Extract 2 (20 marks)
- 40 marks in total
- 20 % of GCSE

This component is marked by AQA.



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WILLY RUSSELL'S

BLOOD

Brothers





WILLY RUSSELL'S

BLOOD

Brothers

You will also have a good understanding of:

- Lighting
- Sound
- Set design
- Props

You will need to have a strong understanding of the plot of the text.

You must understand the context of the play and writer.

You will need a firm understanding of context appropriate costume.

You should be able to track specific characters throughout the play and pick significant moments for them with ease.

You need to be able to communicate your ideas about how each character should/could be performed in these moments.



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We will be going to see a live performance at the end of year 10 / start of year 11. You must have watched the entire production and be able to recall specific moments with ease.

You will need to be able to apply your understanding of the question to a chosen section(s) of the play that is appropriate.

This is the last question on the paper so you should have managed your time well to answer this section fully.

This one question is worth 32 marks... that's more than any of one your performance assessments.



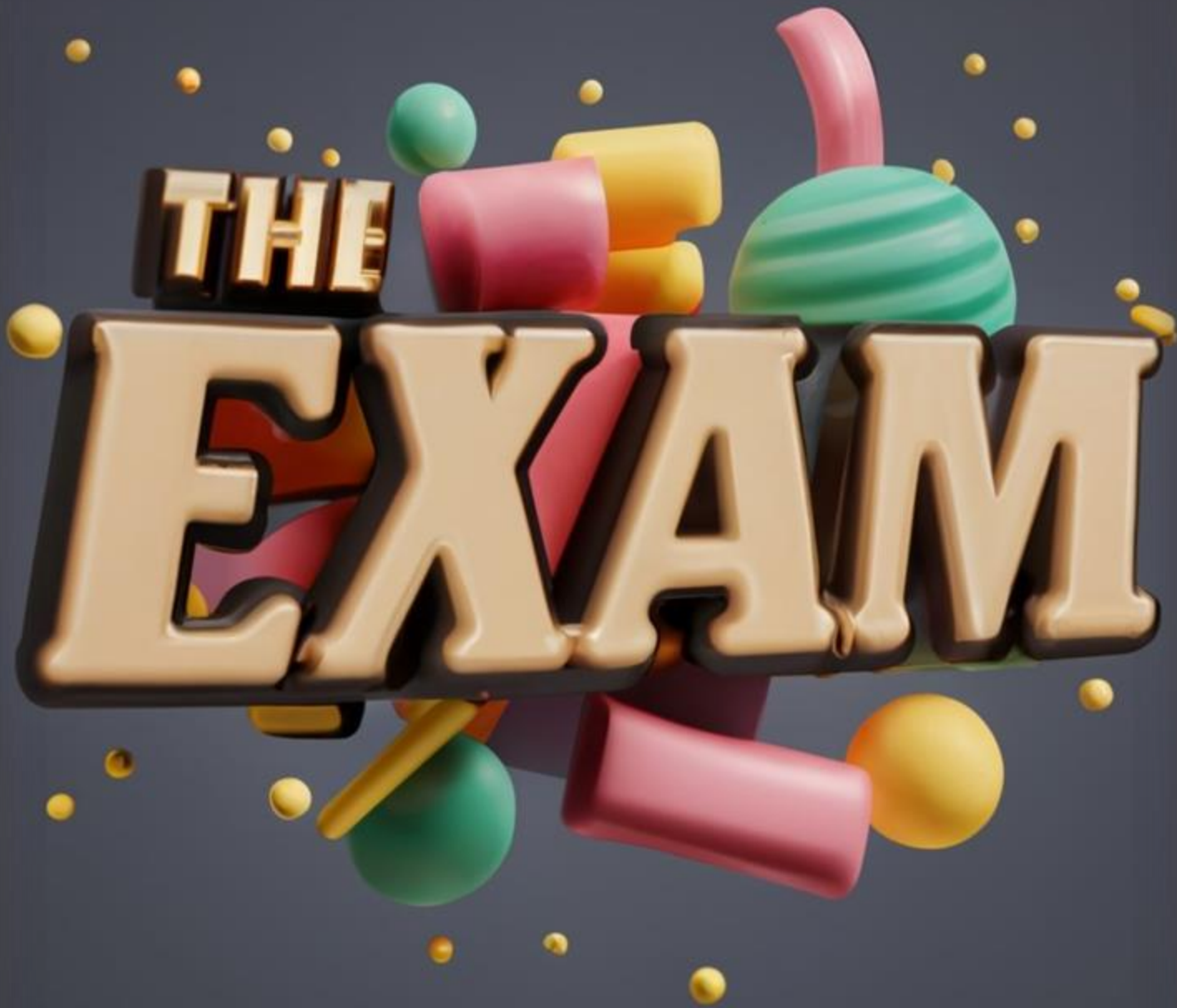
Of course, you also need to communicate your understanding of theatre from the perspective of:
Director Actor or
Designer (set/light/sound/costume)



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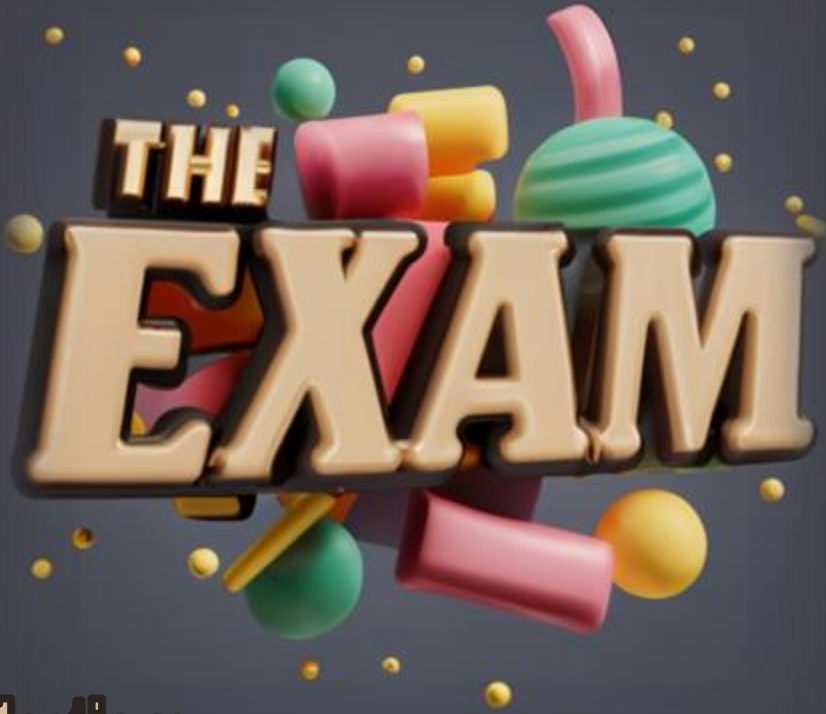
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THE EXAM

The main title "THE EXAM" is rendered in a 3D, blocky font. "THE" is smaller and positioned above "EXAM". The letters are a light beige color with a dark brown shadow. The text is surrounded by various colorful geometric shapes: a green sphere with white stripes, a yellow cylinder, a pink cylinder, a yellow sphere, a green sphere, a yellow sphere, and several small yellow spheres scattered around. The background is a dark grey.



General Notes



Sections:

A - multiple choice questions (4)

B - Blood Brothers (4 questions)

C - Live Theatre Review (Q-32)

- **Work to time! (1:45)**
- **Know the key drama vocabulary (terminology), how to spell it, how it's used on stage and in writing.**
- **Address the questions appropriately (ensure you understand what will be asked of you for each question and focus on what they instruct you to!).**



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DEVISED THEATRE





Practical

- **Get started quickly! Creating an idea and organise time.**
- **Make sure your idea is CLEAR not CLICHÉ**
- **Incorporate ideas, themes, characters that show you at your best! Play to your skillset and show a RANGE of abilities.**
- **It will be necessary to regularly rehearse during lunch / afterschool.**
- **Generally, you should aim to create and perform something that is dynamic, exciting and well-rehearsed.**

Please note: The log is worth **60 marks** – This is the single most valuable aspect of the course. To succeed; keep up to date, follow the structure and guidance from the help sheets. Historically, this component has had a detrimental effect on the whole Drama GCSE grade when it's not done well.

Devising Log Coursework

- **Complete it as you go – don't leave things until last minute.**
- **Reflecting regularly – keep a rehearsal diary.**
- **Use teacher support properly (it's limited!) to ensure you communicate yourself well enough to achieve the best possible mark.**



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REALISING SCRIPTS



Performance Exam - 2 Extracts from 1 play

REALISING SCRIPTS

- You should perform a script in a way that is truthful, appropriate for the text and shows a range of skills and abilities.
- To achieve the best you need to know the **WHOLE** text studied and the context within which it is set *and* was written. This will inform how the part should/could be played.
- Again, you should regularly attend rehearsals during lunch / afterschool.
- Learn your lines rapidly so you can focus on character development and realising the text on stage in an exciting and dynamic way. Examiner's expect much more than simply knowing your lines...
- Lastly, utilise staff to help with how to characterise or stage things. Don't rely on staff to point out obvious missteps.

Listening and responding to the ideas of staff and peers is the key to success.





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Are there
any questions?