

Drama- Exam Board: AQA

Subject Overview (coursework/exam split, timings, weightings etc.):

Component 1: Written paper

Written Exam consisting of a 1hr 45 mins paper where they will answer questions covering all aspects of drama and theatre. It is an open book exam so the play they study for section B will be there in the exam. This component is worth 40% of the GCSE. The paper is out of a total of 80 marks.

Component 2: Devised Theatre

This is the first practical component we cover during Y10. The students create their own theatre based on a stimulus introduced to them in lesson. They also complete a piece of written coursework as well as a performance. It is moderated by the teachers and then the marks are sent off to the examination board. Students can complete this component as an actor/costume designer/lighting designer/sound designer/set designer/puppet designer. This component is worth 40% of the GCSE

Component 3: Texts in Practice

This is the second practical component we cover during Y11. The students create a performance using a script. They must pick two extracts from the script to perform in front of a visiting examiner who marks them. Students can complete this component as an actor/costume designer/lighting designer/sound designer/set designer/puppet designer. This component is worth 20% of the GCSE

Key Topics:

Component 1: Written paper

- Section A: Roles and responsibilities in the theatre, types of stage, stage positioning, multiple choice questions, there are 4 of them to answer each worth one mark
- Section B: Hansel and Gretel by Kneehigh 4 essay questions to answer.
Q1 4 marks about an element of design,
Q2 8marks about a quote from the extract
Q3 12 marks about the shaded extract, two characters and an atmosphere
Q4 20marks about one character from the extract and the wider context of the play
- Section C: Study of a live theatre performance, 32 marks, 1 question to answer based on a performance they have seen live.

Component 2: Devised Theatre

This gets completed in Y10 of the GCSE year.

Coursework which is made up of three sections:

1. Initial response to the stimulus
2. Development of the piece
3. Evaluation of the piece

Students are responsible for the development of their piece, including rehearsal time and tech runs.

Component 3: Texts in Practice (This gets completed in Y11 of the GCSE year.)

Students are to work with the teacher to select the most appropriate script for them to give them their best chance when in front of the visiting examiner. They must learn lines, be responsible for their own rehearsal time. Those who are the designers are responsible for creating their own pieces, such as costumes.

Useful websites:

AQA's website

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/gcse/drama-8261>

Kneehigh theatre company's website (the writers of the play Hansel and Gretel the set text for the written exam)

<http://www.kneehigh.co.uk/>

Youtube for watching past examples of plays they choose for their texts in practice, as well as Hansel and Gretel, live theatre we watch for Section C

Useful resources:

New Grade 9-1 GCSE Drama Revision Guide (CGP GCSE Drama 9-1 Revision)

Drama revision guide: this is provided by the teachers (you can also find this on the student shared area)

Scanned in script of the play Hansel and Gretel (you will find this on the student Shared area)

Useful revision tips:

The arch: Helping you to remember key moments in the play Hansel and Gretel. Can break this down further by creating an arch for each individual character to ensure you know their context within the play

The clock: remembering how to answer all the questions in the exam, the timings/structure/key vocabulary to include

Practice questions for the written exam

12 Questions/mind map in the middle/12 questions: answering 12 questions then checking your answers, you then create a mind map of the gaps in your knowledge and from that answer the 12 questions again. These should be based on Component 1

Flash cards