GCSE Drama Assessment Overview

Component 1: Understanding drama

Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre

Set text Study The 39 Steps by Patrick Barlow

Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers. This year this will include Things I know to be True by Frantic Assembly and The Tin Drum by Kneehigh Theatre.

Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes

Open book

80 marks 40% of GCSE

Questions

Section A: multiple choice (4 marks) – This question will feature roles in the performing arts industry. You must ensure that you know all of your technical vocabulary.

Section B: four questions on a given extract from the set play chosen (44 marks). When opening the exam paper, you must turn straight to the section on The 39 Steps. There will be a short extract and then questions regarding production design (set, costume, lighting, sound and props) and acting (voice, gesture, facial expression, movement and relationships to other actors). You must ensure that you have a sound knowledge of the play and have already prepared your ideas for design and acting ideas through your learning and workshops on the play. You must be very aware of the context of the 1930s as this will be crucial in the development of your answer.

Section C: one question (from a choice) on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production (32 marks) is expected that in your answer you will be able to write a confident evaluation of using appropriate theatrical terminology. The usual format is that one question will focus on acting skills, and the other will concentrate on technical aspects of a production, but you should be prepared to answer on either of these elements. You will refer to either 'Things I Know To Be True' by Frantic Assembly, seen at Oxford Playhouse on 28th September 2017 or ''The Tin Drum' seen at Bristol Old Vic on 7th November 2017.

The top band mark scheme will always refer to clear descriptive detail and purposeful reference to the production.

ACTING QUESTIONS KEY VOCABULARY: movement, gesture, stillness, proxemics, focus, levels, contrast, use of space, planes, posture, gait, mannerisms, eye contact, atmosphere, blocking, mime, tableau, choreography, style, tone, pace, pitch, pause, intonation, volume, accent, diction, pause, silence, subtext, non-verbal communication, tempo, irony, sarcasm, monologue, soliloquy, dialogue, prose, verse,

Component 2: Devising drama (practical)

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. The majority of students have already handed this in. You should check with your teacher that you have achieved the maximum mark.

Component 3: Texts in practice (practical)

The date for this exam will be some time in February and will be confirmed by the end of November.

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. You will work with your teacher to choose the right play for your group.

Performance of Extract 1 (20 marks) and Extract 2 (20 marks)

40 marks in total

20% of GCSE

This exam is marked externally by a visiting examiner.