

AQA GCSE DRAMA

COMPONENT 1 : Understanding drama

Year 11 examination

Time allowed: 1 hour 45 min

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- An Answer Booklet
- A clean copy of the set text you have studied

Instructions

- Use black pen
- Write the information required on the front of your answer booklet
- ONLY work in your answer booklet will be marked
- Write the question number in the margin of your answer booklet
- Do any rough work in your answer booklet. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked

Information

- The total number of marks available for this paper is 80
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets
- Section A carries 4 marks, Section B carries 44 marks and Section C carries 32 marks
- Where appropriate, you may support your answers with sketches and diagrams
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - Use good English
 - Organise information clearly
 - Use specialist vocabulary where appropriate

Advice

- You should spend approximately 5 minutes on Section A, 45 minutes on Section B and 55 mins on Section C.

Section A : Theatre roles and terminology

Answer **ALL** questions in this section

For each question, write the question number in your answer booklet, followed by A, B or C.

01. In the professional theatre, who is responsible for operating the technical equipment such as lighting during a performance?

- A The lead performer
- B The theatre manager
- C The technician

(1 mark)

02. When performing with a 'traverse' staging, which of the following would be considered as a disadvantage?

- A The audience may feel distant from the stage
- B Big pieces of set, scenery or backdrops can block sightlines
- C The audience may find moving around the space tiring

(1 mark)

03. What type of stage is shown below in figure 1 below?

- A Proscenium Arch
- B in the round
- C Traverse stage

(1 mark)

04. With reference to figure 1 above, in what position is the gate?

- A Upstage Right
- B Downstage left
- C Upstage Centre

(1 mark)

Extract

Read the following extract from Act 2 and answer the questions on the following page in response to this extract:

MRS JOHNSTONE is liting the 'we go dancing' line as MRS LYONS appears in the kitchen. MRS JOHNSTONE gets a shock as she looks up and sees MRS LYONS there. The two women stare at each other.

MRS JOHNSTONE: (*eventually nodding*) Hello.

MRS LYONS: How long have you lived here?

Pause.

MRS JOHNSTONE: A few years.

Pause.

MRS LYONS: Are you always going to follow me?

MRS JOHNSTONE: We were rehoused here.....I didn't follow.....

MRS LYONS: Don't lie! I know what you're doing to me! You gave him that locket, didn't you? Mm?

MRS JOHNSTONE nods.

MRS LYONS: He never takes it off you know? You're very clever aren't you?

MRS JOHNSTONE: I...I thought I'd never see him again. I wanted him to have...a picture of me....even though he'd never know.

MRS LYONS: Afraid he might actually have forgotten you? Oh no. There's no chance of that. He'll always remember you. After we moved, he talked less and less of you and your family. I started....just for a while I came to believe that he was actually mine.

MRS JOHNSTONE: He is yours.

MRS LYONS: No. I took him. But I never made him mine. Does he know?...have you told....

MRS JOHNSTONE: Of course not!

MRS LYONS: Even when- when he was a tiny baby I'd see him looking straight at me and I'd think, he knows.... He knows. (*pause*) You have ruined me. (*pause*) But you won't ruin Edward. Is it money you want?

Section B : Study of a set text (Blood Brothers)

Answer all questions based on the extract on the previous page and answer **05.1, 05.2 and 05.3.**

Then answer *either* **05.4 or 05.5**

05.1 You are designing a setting for a performance of this extract. The setting must reflect the context of Blood Brothers, set in a working class community in and around the 1970's. Describe your ideas for the setting.

(4 marks)

05.2 You are performing the role of Mrs Lyons. Describe how you would use your vocal and physical skills to perform the line below, and explain the effects you want to create.

“Are you always going to follow me?”

(8 marks)

05.3 You are performing the role of Mrs Lyons. Focus on the shaded part of the extract. Explain how you and the actor playing Mrs Johnstone might use the performance space to interact with each other to create tension for your audience.

(12 marks)

And either

05.4 You are performing the role of Mrs Johnstone. Describe how you would use your acting skills to interpret Mrs Johnstone's character in this extract and explain why your ideas are appropriate for both this extract and the play as a whole.

(20 marks)

Or

05.5 You are a designer working on one aspect of design for this extract. Describe how you would use your design skills to create effects which support the action of this extract and explain why your ideas are appropriate both for this extract and the play as a whole.

(20 marks)

Section C: Live theatre production

Answer **one** question from this section

State the title of the live/digital theatre production you saw.

Answer your question with reference to this production.

You must answer on a different play to the play you answered on in Section B.

Either Question 6

Describe how one or more actors in a particular scene or section used their vocal and physical acting skills to create convincing characters. Analyse and evaluate how successful they were in communicating their character to the audience.

You should make reference to:

- the use of voice
- physical skills
- the actors' use of space.

(32 marks)

Or Question 7

Describe how sound was used to support the action in the production. Analyse and evaluate how successful the sound was in helping to communicate the action of the production to the audience.

You should make reference to:

- types of sound
- use of sound effects
- volume, amplification and direction.

(32 marks)

