

Tips for success at GCSE Drama

Course overview:

Unit One is called “Devising”- worth 40%

You will work in a group to produce a piece of drama and it will be video recorded and sent to the examining board for marking. This can be something entirely original, or it can use an existing, published play as a starting point. The second part of this unit requires students to create a portfolio of the creating and developing process which will be completed in the format of a controlled assessment of 2000 words.

Unit Two is called “Performance from Text”- Worth 20%

Students will perform an extract from a scripted text chosen by the Teacher. This will be performed to a visiting examiner who will moderate and assess the work.

Unit 3 is entitled “Theatre makers in Practice”- Worth 40%

This unit is split into 2 parts:

- Part 1: students will study a complete performance text in class. They will then sit a written examination based on the performance text where they will have to answer 5 questions based on an unseen extract from the play.
- Part 2: This section consists of 2 questions requiring students to analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance that they have seen- Again under examination conditions
- Unit 1 and unit 2 are completed and prepared for in class.

Unit 3 requires revision and preparation for the written examination.

Top Tips to succeed at unit 3:

- Use all of the resources shared on Google classroom to support with your revision, look at past papers, mark schemes/ model answers/ exemplars
- Write out your own model answers under timed conditions
- Draw up a time plan for the exam- The exam is 1 hour, 45 minutes- You need to answer 5 questions on “An inspector calls” and 2 questions on a live theatre experience
- Attend coaching sessions with year 12 students- every Wednesday registration- Library

Important reminders about the unit 3 paper

- There are 5 questions on An Inspector calls
- The 4 mark question will either be based on Physical skills/ Vocal skills (See google classroom)
- The 6 mark question will always be based on Performance skills(See google classroom)

- The 9 mark question - you are encouraged to select the costume option (See google classroom)
- To get full marks on the 9 mark question you must reference context.(See google classroom)
- The 12 mark question, you will need at least 3 actual examples for each section referenced.(See google classroom)
- The 14 mark question, You will need at least 4 examples to support your opinion.
(See google classroom)
- The 4/6 mark questions are answered from the point of view of a performer
- The 9/12 mark questions are answered from the point of view of a Director
- 14 mark questions from the point of view of a designer.
- You are allowed to take into the exam- notes on your live performance- 500 words.