



Knowledge Organiser

Drama

GCSE Drama OCR

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YEAR 10 & 11

2023-2025

NAME: _____

TUTOR GROUP: _____

1		Why are theatre conventions important?	They influence the way plays are performed, such as genre, structure & staging
2		Define historical context	Historical context refers to any major events that happened at the time a play was written or set, for example religious conflict or political upheaval
3		The way most people thought, behaved and lived at a given time is known as?	Social Context – includes class, gender roles and attitudes towards race
4		What is cultural context?	Cultural context refers to trends or interests that were popular at the time, such as music film and television
5		What is a theatre maker?	Anyone involved in the making of theatre – includes playwrights, directors, performers & designers (as well as backstage, front of house etc.)
6		What is meant by a linear structure?	A plot that advances chronologically in the same order the events happened.
7		Plots that do not progress chronologically are known as what?	Non-Linear – they can jump backwards and forwards to different times or locations
8		A cyclical plot, that starts and finishes in the same place is good to create what?	Suspense and Tension – as the audience already know the ending (Blood Brothers follows a cyclical plot)
9	Theatre Conventions	What is a climax?	A climax is the turning point where the drama and tension are at their peak
10		What is the difference between a plot and a subplot?	Plot is the main story being told – subplots are minor storylines that continue to develop beneath the main narrative
11		Instructions written into a script to explain how something should be performed are?	Stage directions
12		What is a soliloquy?	When a character talks to themselves to express their feelings getting the audience emotionally involved.
13		A character making a comment to another character or the audience whilst no other on-stage characters can hear is known as what?	An aside
14		How are narrators often used?	Narrators are often used to break the fourth wall and give the audience additional information. Blood Brothers contains a third person narrator
15		Define Dramatic Irony	When the audience know something the characters do not. This can create humour but also can be used to build tension
16		Significant moments that need highlighting can be done using what technique?	Marking the moment – this could be shown through a tableau, freeze or a slow-motion sequence
17		Name the four basic staging layouts	Proscenium arch, Thrust, In the round, Traverse
18		Create diagrams of each of the basic staging layouts	You must be able to draw the different staging types
19		Why are black box studios versatile?	They are blank canvas' where seating can be moved around
20		Name three other types of staging	Revolving stage, site specific, promenade

21	Presenting & Performing Texts	What is the role of a playwright?	A playwright is responsible for writing dramatic material for the purposes of performance. The script is the blueprint for creating a dramatic production
22		What is creative license?	Freedom to adapt and interpret a play/script as you wish
23		Your perspective and interpretation of a character is called what?	Artistic Vision
24		What vocal skills do you need to think about when portraying a character?	Pitch, Pace, Tone, Volume, Accent, Intonation
25		What physical skills do you need to think about when portraying a character?	Facial Expression, Movement, Gesture, Posture
26		What is a Cue?	The line before your line – prompting you to get ready to speak
27		The explorative strategy questioning a character to discover more about them is what?	Hot seating
28		Describe a Mannerism	A habitual gesture or behaviour
29		What is the fourth wall?	Performing as though there is a wall – ignoring the presence of the audience
30		Describe proxemics	Proxemics is the physical space between actors on stage
31	PRACTITIONERS	Name three key practitioners	Bertolt Brecht, Konstantin Stanislavski, Antonin Artaud
32		Who is Brecht?	A German Theatre maker who played a major role in the development of epic theatre
33		Who is Stanislavski?	A Russian Theatre maker who had a major role in the development of naturalistic theatre
34		Who is Artaud?	A French Theatre maker known as being Avant-Garde, best known for his work in theatre of cruelty
35		Describe Naturalism	A Style of theatre that aims to recreate real life as closely as possible on stage
36		Describe Epic Theatre	Non-naturalistic, encourages the audience to think about the play's message and actively reminds the audience that it is not real
37		Describe Theatre of Cruelty	'Assaults' audiences' senses with bright lights, loud sounds and striking movements and gestures. Artaud believed that gesture was more important than spoken word – he wanted to shock the audience
38		What is Physical Theatre?	Physical Theatre uses movement to convey meaning
39		What is Immersive Theatre?	Immersive theatre brings the audience closer and often making them a part of the performance – they are physically in and experiencing the drama
40		Who was Stephen Berkoff?	A British theatre maker who used actors' bodies to convey a story rather than sets

PERFORMANCE & RESPONSE	41	Different types of lighting	<p>Backlighting – stage is lit from behind to produce silhouettes</p> <p>Blackout – all stage lights are turned off usually to end a scene</p> <p>Floodlight – stage lantern casting a broad wash of light on stage</p> <p>Fresnel Spotlight – casts a beam with a softly defined edge</p> <p>Gel – coloured film to change the colour of a lanterns beam</p> <p>Gobo – metal disc slotted into a lantern to project patterns</p> <p>Profile Spot – Sharp defined beam, used to shift audience focus</p> <p>Strobe – Light that rapidly flashes on and off</p> <p>Uplighting – Stage is lit from below to create an unusual effect</p>
	42	Different elements of set / stage	<p>Box Set – Naturalistic set made up of a complete room with one open side for the audience to see in</p> <p>Composite Set – Set that shows multiple locations on stage at once</p> <p>Cyclorama – curved screen, back of stage that has scenery projected</p> <p>Flat – Wooden frame with canvas stretched and painted as scenery</p> <p>Flying Rig – Equipment actors can be suspended from to illude flight</p> <p>Rostrum (Rostra) – Raised platform adding levels to the stage</p> <p>Truck – Structure on wheels, painted both sides and used as scenery</p> <p>Wings – The space to the side of stage, used as entrance and exits, storage and a waiting area for actors</p>
	43	Understanding 1960s Britain	<p>Major social change in the late 60s, homosexuality was decriminalized, and divorce made easier. However, attitudes were still traditional with families ‘nuclear’ in structure – made up of a mother, father and their children. Gender roles were very stereotypical. Men went to work whilst women minded the home and children. Single parent families were frowned upon during this time</p>
	44	Why is Social Class important in blood brothers?	<p>Playwright Willy Russell shows through the narrative that a person’s social class can determine the course of their life. He uses Mickey & Edward to demonstrate this to the audience. Perceptions of middle-class vs working-class are emphasised through the meeting of the brothers where a badly behaved Mickey teaches a polite Eddie how to swear – further evidencing the stereotypes of the classes</p>
	45	Examples of ‘physicality’	<p>Body language, posture, gait, gesture, facial expression, mannerisms, movement, stillness</p>
	46	Name vocal attributes	<p>Accent, volume, pitch, pace, pause, phrasing, intonation, emphasis, tone, musicality</p>
	47	What is a soundscape?	<p>A collection of individual sounds that are layered up to create a strong sense of place</p>
	48	What is symbolism	<p>Using props, gesture, setting, lighting etc. to represent other things and create meaning</p>
	49	In the exam you may be asked questions from the perspective of	<p>Performer, Director or Designer</p>
	50	Aspects of live performance are?	<p>The performance itself (acting and directing), Costume design, staging and set design, lighting and sound</p>



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