

GCSE Drama Written Paper (AQA)

Section A Example

If you can answer all these questions for the four sections you should be able to complete a good answer for whatever question comes up in the exam (for Section A)

Remember you **must** answer question A and can **choose** whether to do Question B (Scripted performance) or Question C (Evaluation of a performance you have seen – 'The Woman in Black')

Choose a piece of practical work of which you were proud.

You must answer the questions that follow from your experience as an actor or designer or technician.

1. Describe what the piece was about including the style, performance space, period and genre. State what theatrical skill you contributed to it. (10 marks)

Answer the following questions:

- a. What was the play called?
- b. Was it devised or scripted?
- c. What style/s did you perform in?
- d. Why did you choose to perform in this style?
- e. What was it about?
- f. When was it set?
- g. What genre was it?
- h. What made you proud about your performance?
- i. What research did you do?
- j. What stimulus material did you use?
- k. Describe the performance space (Drama Studio)
- l. Describe your set (rostra/ chairs/ props)
- m. Who did you play?
- n. Describe your character
- o. What else did you do to get the play together that made you proud?

Now put your answers together to construct your essay – ensuring you are answering the question (10 mins)

2. Explain what it was about your contribution that made you proud. Give details of at least one aspect of the performance in support.

Answer the following questions and explain why you felt proud about the work you did:

- a. Give details of one way in which you helped your group to develop your piece
- b. Explain who your character was
- c. Explain what the status of your character was
- d. If you played more than one character explain how you made them look different to the audience
- e. Explain how you used your voice during a section of the play
- f. Why did you use your voice in this way?
- g. Describe your body language during a section – why did you do this?
- h. Explain how you showed what your character was feeling by the facial expressions you were using
- i. Explain how you helped to create the right atmosphere for the audience in this section – was it comedy? Tension? Fear?
- j. Explain how you helped to create the location or setting of the play
- k. Explain how you wanted the audience to feel during and after you had performed the play.
- l. Give an example of how you performed on stage with the other members of your cast
- m. What was it about all of the above that made you proud?

Now put your answers together to construct your essay – ensuring you are answering the question (10 mins)

3. Analyse the work by identifying at least one key section of the piece that developed in rehearsal and provide details of at least one occasion where progress and improvements were made.

Answer the following questions about the work you did:

- a. Name a part of your play that your group struggled in getting on it's feet
- b. Why do you think this was difficult?
- c. When you showed this section to your teacher in the lesson what did he (or other students) say about it?
- d. Why do you think they said this?
- e. In the next rehearsal what did you do to improve this?
- f. What did you find difficult about playing your character?
- g. How did you improve your vocal skills?
- h. What improvements did you make to the way you used your body language?
- i. What did you do to make the transitions (movements between scenes) clearer?
- j. During one section of your piece how did you want your audience to feel?
- k. Give an example of how you worked during rehearsal to achieve this
- l. Give an example of a section that you thought improved the most in rehearsal
- m. Why did this section work so well in performance?

Now put your answers together to construct your essay – ensuring you are answering the question (10 mins)

4. Evaluate what you learnt from the experience of working from this piece. Give details of your own strengths and/or weaknesses in this piece

Answer the following questions about the work you did:

- a. What character did you play in the piece?
- b. Name something that you did to develop your character that you had not done before
- c. Name one way that you worked with another actor on stage to show your characters
- d. When did your group rehearse the play
- e. What did you do in these rehearsals?
- f. How could you have worked better together to get the piece to performance standard?
- g. How did you support each other in rehearsal?
- h. What effect were you trying to create for your audience?
- i. Do you think you achieved this?
- j. What else could you have done in performance to help you and your group achieve this (give clear examples)
- k. What do you think was the best part of your performance?
- l. How could you have used your voice better to create the atmosphere/mood you were trying to achieve – volume, pace, clarity, articulation)
- m. How could you have used your movement/ body language better to achieve your intentions for the audience?
- n. What have you learnt from this experience?
- o. Now put your answers together to construct your essay – ensuring you are answering the question (10 mins)**

AGAIN:

If you can answer all these questions for the four sections you should be able to complete a good answer for whatever question comes up in the exam (for Section A)

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