

A Guide to Preparation/Revision for your GCSE Drama Examination

Important Note: Make sure you are aware of any changes made by the examination board for students taking the exam in 2022. These changes are highlighted in yellow.

Final Stages of Practical Elements:

- Be aware that this year (2022) monologues (both devised and scripted) are accepted by most boards, and that the time requirements have been reduced. If you are working on a monologue, it is a good idea to pair up with another student which can be more motivating for rehearsals than working alone.
- Ensure lines are learned thoroughly. (This is something you can do at home so that it doesn't impact too much on valuable rehearsal time.)
- As your final performance approaches, increase rehearsal time with your group. Don't rely solely on lesson time – particularly if your lessons are only once or twice a week.
- With a text, ensure that you have read the whole play and fully researched your character.
- Ask another group to watch a run-through to get some valuable feedback.
- Try to complete at least two full 'dress runs' before your final performance to ensure you are fully prepared.

[GCSE Drama on Apple Podcasts](#)

Devised Log/Portfolio:

- Make detailed notes, take photographs, annotate scripts and/or film rehearsals to help you reflect on/evaluate the process. *(In 2022, these can also be used as 'alternative evidence' in situations where it hasn't been possible to produce a recording of your final performance.)*
- Check the exam board specification to make sure that your log/portfolio fulfils the requirements and ensure that your teacher has seen a draft and given you feedback.
- Look at exemplar material (from your specific exam board).

[GCSE \(9-1\) Drama ECW Devising - portfolio exemplars 1 with commentary \(ocr.org.uk\)](#)

[GCSE \(9-1\) Drama ECW Devising - portfolio exemplar 2 with commentary \(ocr.org.uk\)](#)

[GCSE \(9-1\) Drama ECW Devising - portfolio exemplar 9 \(ocr.org.uk\)](#)

[TDSU2 1718 scheme-GCSE Drama-devising-log.pdf \(rhinegold.co.uk\)](#)

[Drama Portfolio - GCSE Drama - Marked by Teachers.com](#)

[Process and further ideas - Creating a portfolio or devising log - AQA - GCSE Drama Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Creating a portfolio or devising log - Eduqas - Video - GCSE Drama - BBC Bitesize](#)



Written Paper:

Theatre Roles/Terminology

- Use flash cards to test yourself and/or each other.
- To consolidate correct use of stage directions, use these consistently in rehearsals, both vocally and when annotating a text or answering written exam questions.

[Theatre roles - AQA - Video - GCSE Drama - BBC Bitesize](#)

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/resources/drama-and-performing-arts/gcse/drama/teach/subject-specific-vocabulary>

[GCSE DRAMA Year 10 Task 3-Theatre roles and terminology task sheets.pdf \(schudio.com\)](#)

Study of Set Text:

- As well as reading the text and performing extracts, watch as many versions as possible, e.g. live and filmed performances, videos, YouTube etc.
- Attempt practise questions from past papers but working under timed conditions. Ask your teacher to mark your attempts and offer feedback.
- Read exam reports from previous years to gain a clear idea of what is required (and what isn't!)
- Read exemplar answers provided by your examination board.
- Create 'pen portraits' of the main characters with ideas on how you might use your face, voice, body movement and gesture to portray them at key moments during the play.
- Create your own 'actors vocabulary page' listing different ways of describing how you can move/change your voice/face/body to put across moods, emotions, relationships etc. and add to it as you think of new ideas (as this can be difficult under the pressure of time).
- Show you are aware of the correct terminology for stage directions in exam answers. This will also save you time e.g. 'I would move briskly DSR' is much quicker than 'I would move to my far right and close to the audience.'

In 2022, you will be informed of the chosen extracts to be included in the paper and this should help with targeted revision. However, you do still need to study the remainder of the play. You will also be informed which technical aspects (e.g. sound, lighting,) will be asked for.

<https://revisionworld.com/a2-level-level-revision/drama-gcse-level/studying-drama/drama-gcse-past-papers/aqa-gcse-drama-past-papers>; [GCSE drama revision resources | Tes](#)

[GCSE Drama exams and revision: AQA explains what you need to do | The Student Room](#)



Live Theatre Evaluation:

- Although it is a good idea to see as much live theatre as possible, try to choose the performance you are going to write about before the exam. (Usually, it is easier to write about something which has really impressed you in terms of acting, design and/or technical elements.)
- Make sure you have read/researched the play/writer thoroughly beforehand and read any reviews or other articles about it.
- Although it is often seen as bad theatre etiquette to take notes during a performance (plus, you will miss moments) write up your observations in detail as soon as possible afterwards. You will be amazed how quickly you forget things!
- Watching other versions of the play, whether live or recorded, will give you an idea of which 'choices' have been made by the writer and which by the director/performers.
- *In 2022, you will be able to use live-streamed, digital or recorded performances as a basis for this question if you have not been able to see a live performance.*

[GCSE \(9-1\) Drama Candidate Style Answers, Performance and Response - Section B, Live theatre evaluation exemplar 1 \(ocr.org.uk\)](#)

[GCSE Drama Candidate exemplar 42401 Section C \(bgsperformingarts.com\)](#)

