

DRAMA – TOPIC 7

Component 2 Scripted Performances

INTRODUCTION

Component 2 is a practical exam which is marked by a visiting examiner from the exam board. Each student will be marked on their performance or technical support of two extracts from a play (both extracts must be from the same play). The extracts must be from a play which provides a contrast to the play you have studied as a set text for Component 3 (An Inspector Calls). This unit is worth 20% of your overall final grade.

KEY WORDS

Script
Stage Directions
Characterisation
Character Intentions
Style
Facial Expression
Physicality
Gesture
Eye Contact
Communication
Collaboration
Voice: tone, pace, pitch, pause, accent, volume
Emphasis
Intonation
Inflection
Levels
Proxemics



EXAM TIPS FOR PERFORMERS:

Performers: Make sure that you get 'off script' as soon as you possibly can!...

This means that you will learn your lines quickly so that you are not holding and relying on your script during rehearsal. Once you are 'off script' you can start to 'catch marks' by putting in all the finer detail like thinking about your facial expression, gestures, physicality and so forth as well as thinking about how you will use your voice and other drama skills/techniques.

A good way to learn lines is to read your script extracts before you go to bed or to record yourself reading your script on a voice memo on your phone, then listen to yourself back with headphones as often as you need to.

Another good method is to get someone at home to read your script with you. They can read the other part (if you're doing a duologue) and as your confidence builds, you could start to try it without looking/reading from the script and just ask to be prompted if you forget the next line.

Another great method to use when learning lines in rehearsal is 'ghosting'. A 'ghost actor' (who is not in the scene) stands behind you and holds your script. They say your lines and you repeat them with your hands and arms/body free for movement and characterisation. Eventually, you won't need your ghost actor anymore!

KEY FACTS TO MEMORISE

1. You must learn your lines for each extract if performing. If you are a tech support candidate, you must learn your cues.
2. The examiner does not know you and will only mark what they see on the day: so, be prepared to stay in role and give it all the energy and effort you've got!

EXAM TIPS FOR TECH CANDIDATES:

The exam task for you is to be a technical support candidate for 2 extracts from a published play. So, choose which technical design element you are going to work with:

- Lighting
- Sound
- Costume
- Set

Get to know your performer's work by watching them rehearse and working with them.

If doing lighting or sound, get to know how to use and work the equipment and ask for examples of a cue sheet, then make your own.

If doing costume or set, you might start with mood board or collage and research from other productions. Then think about what you want and how you will make or source it.

With lighting, costume or set, how could you use colour in a symbolic way?

If doing sound, what music or sound effects will enhance the pieces? Instrumental music often works better to accompany scripted drama than music with lyrics as it can distract from the lines.

STRETCH:

Why not research your play and the character/ character's you play to find out more? You could also annotate your script with your ideas about your character's thoughts, feelings, intentions and relationships to other characters in the scene/play to help with your own interpretation.