Your notes

GCSE Drama: revision notes

Devising drama

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Component 2: Devising drama (AQA)

- You create an original piece of theatre in a group, from a **stimulus**, as a performer or a designer.
- It is worth 40% of the GCSE: the **devising log** (60 marks) and the devised performance (20 marks).

Component 1: Devising theatre (Eduqas)

- You create an original piece of theatre in a group of two to five actors, as an actor or a designer (lighting, sound, set and props, or costume, hair and make-up).
- You respond to one of four stimuli that WJEC sets each year: a quotation, a song, a picture and a concept or statement.
- The piece must use the techniques of a theatre practitioner (such as Stanislavski or Brecht) or the features of a genre (such as physical theatre or musical theatre).
- It is worth 40% of the GCSE (60 marks): the **portfolio** (30 marks), the performance or design (15 marks) and a written evaluation (15 marks).

The devising process

- Respond to a **stimulus**, such as a photo, poem, song, object or news story; research and discuss ideas.
- Improvise to explore ideas, characters and situations; select the best material.
- Develop and structure the piece, deciding its genre, style and message, and any practitioner influences.
- Rehearse and refine, using feedback, then perform to an audience.

The devising log (AQA)

- The log has three sections: response to a **stimulus**, development and **collaboration**, and analysis and evaluation.
- Explain your **intentions**, the choices you made and why, how you worked with others, and how successful the final piece was.
- Use drama vocabulary and specific examples from rehearsals and the performance.

The portfolio and evaluation (Eduqas)

- The **portfolio** shows three key stages: how you created ideas from the **stimulus**, how you used your practitioner or genre, and how you developed and refined the piece.
- For each stage you give evidence (sketches, photos, ground plans, sections of script or short clips) with a commentary of about 250 to 300 words: 750 to 900 words in all, or a recording of 4 to 7 minutes.
- The evaluation is written in 1 hour 30 minutes under supervision, with up to two sides of A4 of bullet-point notes. You analyse and evaluate your performance or design, your skills and how well you met your aims.

Key terms

Devising	Creating an original piece of theatre as a group.
Stimulus	A starting point for devising, such as a photo or poem.
Improvisation	Making up drama on the spot to explore ideas.
Devising log	The written record of the devising process. (AQA)
Portfolio	The evidence and commentary showing how your devised piece was made. (Eduqas)
Collaboration	Working together as a group.
Intention	What you want the audience to think or feel.

Quick questions

Cover the answers and test yourself: remembering is what makes it stick.

1. What is devising?
2. What is a stimulus?
3. (AQA) How much of AQA GCSE Drama is Component 2 worth?
4. What is improvisation?
5. (AQA) What are the three sections of the devising log?
6. (AQA) How many marks is the devising log worth?
7. What does collaboration mean?

Your notes

8. What is an intention?

Answers

1. Creating an original piece of theatre as a group
2. A starting point for devising
3. 40%
4. Making up drama on the spot to explore ideas
5. Response to a stimulus, development and collaboration, and analysis and evaluation
6. 60
7. Working together as a group
8. What you want the audience to think or feel

What to do next

Practise 15 questions on this topic

Try 5 exam questions, with mark schemes

Read the lesson, one step at a time

Free revision for GCSE and KS3 at lycolearn.co.uk. Some notes are for one exam board only, and say so in brackets.

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