Your notes

GCSE Drama: revision notes

Analysing and evaluating live theatre

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The live theatre question

- (AQA) In Section C of the Understanding drama paper, you **analyse** and **evaluate** a **live theatre** production you have seen.
- (Eduqas) Section B of Component 3, Interpreting theatre, is the **live theatre** review: one question from a choice of two, worth 15 marks, on one aspect of a **production** you have seen.
- (Eduqas) It must be a performance you watched live, in the same space as the performers, and it can't be your set text. It can be professional or amateur, but not other students' work.
- Questions may focus on a performer's skills or on a design element, such as lighting or set.
- (Eduqas) They can also ask about the director's choices or how the audience reacted.

Analyse and evaluate

- Describe: give precise details of what happened on stage at specific moments.
- **Analyse**: explain how the skills or design created meaning or **effect**.
- **Evaluate**: judge how successful it was and why, with your own justified opinion.

Preparing

- Make detailed notes straight after seeing the show, while it's fresh.
- Note key moments, specific vocal and physical skills, and details of set, costume, lighting and sound.
- Practise writing answers with the "what, how, why" structure: what they did, how they did it, and why it worked (or didn't).

Key terms

Analyse	Explain how and why something creates meaning or effect.
Evaluate	Judge how successful something was, with reasons.
Live theatre	A performance seen in person.
Production	A particular staging of a play.
Effect	The impact on the audience.

Quick questions

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

1. (AQA) Which section of the exam is on live theatre?
2. (Eduqas) Which part of the Interpreting theatre exam is the live theatre review?
3. (Eduqas) How many marks is the live theatre review worth?
4. (Eduqas) Which production could you write about in the live theatre review?
5. What does evaluate mean?
6. What does analyse mean?
7. When should you make notes on a live production?
8. What should notes include?

Answers

1. Section C
2. Section B
3. 15
4. A production you watched live in a theatre, of a different play from your set text
5. Judge how successful something was, with reasons
6. Explain how and why something creates meaning or effect
7. Straight after seeing it
8. Key moments and specific details of skills and design

What to do next

Practise 13 questions on this topic

Try 3 exam questions, with mark schemes

Read the lesson, one step at a time

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