Your notes

GCSE Drama: revision notes

Vocal and physical skills

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Vocal skills

- **Pitch**: how high or low the voice is. **Pace**: how fast. Pause: a silence for effect.
- Volume: loudness, from a whisper to a shout. **Tone**: the emotion in the voice, such as sarcastic or tender.
- Accent and dialect show where a character is from. **Emphasis** stresses important words. **Inflection** is the rise and fall of the voice.

Physical skills

- Body language and **posture** show status and feelings: an upright **posture** can show confidence; a hunched one, fear or defeat.
- **Gesture**: movements of the hands and arms. Facial expression shows emotion.
- **Gait**: how a character walks. Movement and use of space, including levels and proxemics.
- Eye contact shows confidence, honesty or tension.

Using skills in the exam

- When describing how you'd play a character, give specific skills with specific examples from the text, and explain the intended effect on the audience.
- Example: "I would lower my **pitch** and slow my **pace** on the line to show menace, making the audience feel uneasy."

Key terms

Pitch	How high or low the voice is.
Pace	The speed of speaking or moving.
Tone	The emotion expressed in the voice.
Posture	The way the body is held.
Gait	The way a person walks.

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Gesture	A movement of the hands or arms that shows meaning.
Inflection	The rise and fall of the voice.
Emphasis	Stressing particular words.

Quick questions

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

1. What is pitch?
2. What is gait?
3. What is tone?
4. What can a hunched posture show?
5. Why might an actor pause before a line?
6. What is emphasis?
7. What does eye contact avoided suggest?
8. What should an exam answer about acting include?

Answers

1. How high or low the voice is
2. The way a person walks
3. The emotion in the voice
4. Fear or defeat
5. To create tension or emphasis
6. Stressing particular words
7. Nerves, guilt or discomfort
8. Specific skills, examples from the text and the effect on the audience

What to do next

Practise 10 questions on this topic

Try 3 exam questions, with mark schemes

Read the lesson, one step at a time

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