

# AQA GCSE DRAMA

Course information and  
Revision Guidance

**YEAR 11**  
**2020**



# Component 1: Understanding drama (written examination)



## What's assessed

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
- Study of one set play from a choice of six – we are doing Blood Brothers.
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

## How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes
- Open book
- 80 marks
- 40% of GCSE

## Questions

- Section A: multiple choice (4 marks)
- Section B: four questions on a given extract from the set play chosen (44 marks)
- Section C: one question (from a choice) on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production (32 marks)

# Component 2: Devising Drama (practical)

**COMPLETE**



## What's assessed

- Process of creating devised drama
- Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer or designer)
- Analysis and evaluation of own work

## How it's assessed

- Devising log (60 marks) - **Deadline for this is Wednesday 25/11/2020.**
- Devised performance (20 marks)
- 80 marks in total
- 40% of GCSE

**This component is marked by Mrs Woodward and moderated by AQA.**



# Component 3: Texts in Practice (practical)



## What's assessed

- Performance of ONE extract from one play OR a Monologue
- The Play must contrast with the set play chosen for Component 1 (Blood Brothers)

## How it's assessed

- Performance of Extract 1 (20 marks)
- 20 marks in total
- 20% of GCSE

This component will be filmed in February/March 2021 and marked by AQA.

# Component One: The Written Examination - Overview



<b>Section A</b> Theatre roles and terminology 5 Minutes	Four Questions: a,b,c,d Answer all	Multiple choice 5 minutes	4 marks
<b>Section B</b> Set Text Blood Brothers 55 Minutes	Four Questions: Answer 1, 2, 3, Then choose EITHER 4 OR 5	Q1: Paragraph- 5 minutes Q2: Longer paragraph- 10 Minutes Q3: Essay-15 Minutes Q4 OR 5: Essay-25 Minutes	4marks 8 marks 12 marks 20 marks
<b>Section C</b> Live Theatre 45 Minutes	Answer ONE Question from a choice of 3	Essay-45 Minutes	32 marks



## Component One: The written examination breakdown



### Section A, Q1 - 4:

Understanding Drama

**What is assessed?**

**Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre**

This includes:

- learning the different jobs of people who create theatre and what their role is in the theatre-making process.
- Theatre terminology (language)
- How the stage space is divided up into different areas and what these areas are called
- The different arrangements of performance spaces, what they are called and what they look like.

# Sample Question

## Section A, Q1 - 4: Theatre roles and Terminology

- In the professional theatre, who has overall responsibility for ensuring the health and safety of the audience in the theatre?
  - a. The director
  - b. The technician
  - c. The theatre manager

**(1 mark)**



# Sample Question



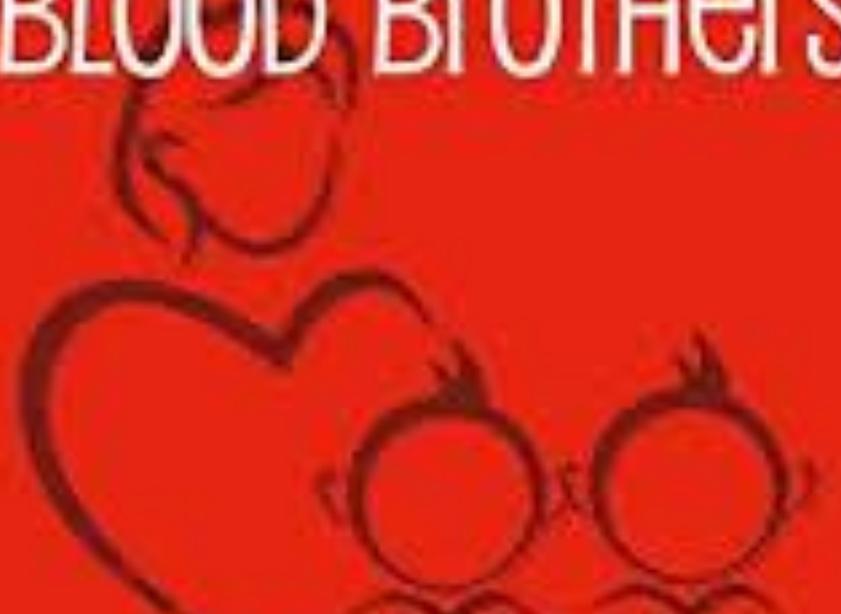
Section B, Q1: *Blood Brothers* (Based on a provided extract of the text)

You are designing a **costume** for **Edward** to wear in a performance of this extract. The costume must reflect the context of *Blood Brothers*, set in a Liverpooldlian community in the late 1960s. Describe your design ideas for the costume.

[4 marks]



# WILLY RUSSELL BLOOD BROTHERS



## QUESTION BREAKDOWN

Section B, Q1: 4 Marks – 5 minutes

- One very brief sentence showing that you understand the **context** and **intention** behind what you're creating.
- Around four high quality sentences **describing the design element**, with very precise detail.





# Sample Question

## Section B, Q2:

You are performing the role of **Edward**. Describe how you would use your **vocal and physical skills** to perform the line below **and** explain the effects you want to create.

*'(through his tears) I don't want to go. I want to stay here where my friends are...where Mickey is.'*

(8 marks)



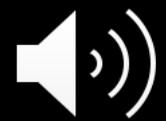
# WILLY RUSSELL BLOOD BROTHERS



## QUESTION BREAKDOWN

### Section B, Question 2: 8 Marks – 10 Minutes

- One **very brief** sentence showing that you understand the **context of the line**.
- Give your **first skill** used in relation the line and the **reason for it**.
- Give your **second** skill used in relation the line and the **reason for it**.
- Give your **third** skill used in relation the line and the **reason for it**.
- **Top marks:** aim for two reasons for **each** skill you describe.
- **Top Marks:** aim for both physical and vocal skill for each moment you describe.
- **Top Marks:** Will link to the question throughout.





# Sample Question

Section B, Q 3:

You are performing the role of Edward.

- Focus on the shaded part of the extract. Explain how you and the actor playing Mrs Johnstone might use the performance space and interact with each other to show the audience the **emotional relationship** between the two characters.
- [12 marks]



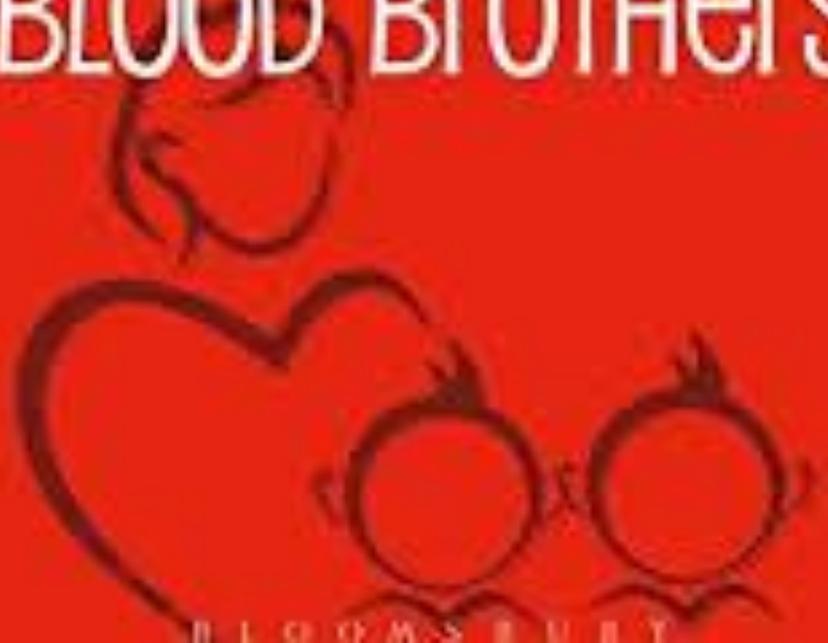


## QUESTION BREAKDOWN

Question 3: 12 Marks – 15 Minutes (Part of Extract)

- Statement about the character overall.
- Introduce the extract, explaining where in the play it is and what the character is like at this point.
- Give aim 1. Describe the Moment + Break down a quote with the skills used with the Intended effect
- Aim 2 + Moment + Break down a quote + Skills used with the Intended effect
- Aim 3 + Moment + Break down a quote + Skills used with the Intended effect
- **IF TIME:** Aim 4 + Moment + Break down a quote + Skills used with the Intended effect
- **Top Marks:** Will link to the question throughout.

WILLY  
RUSSELL  
BLOOD BROTHERS



# Sample Question

Section B, Q4

You are performing the role of **Mrs Johnstone**. Describe how you would use your acting skills to **interpret Mrs Johnstone's character**.

Explain why your ideas are appropriate for:

- this extract
- the performance of your role in the play as a whole.

[20 marks]

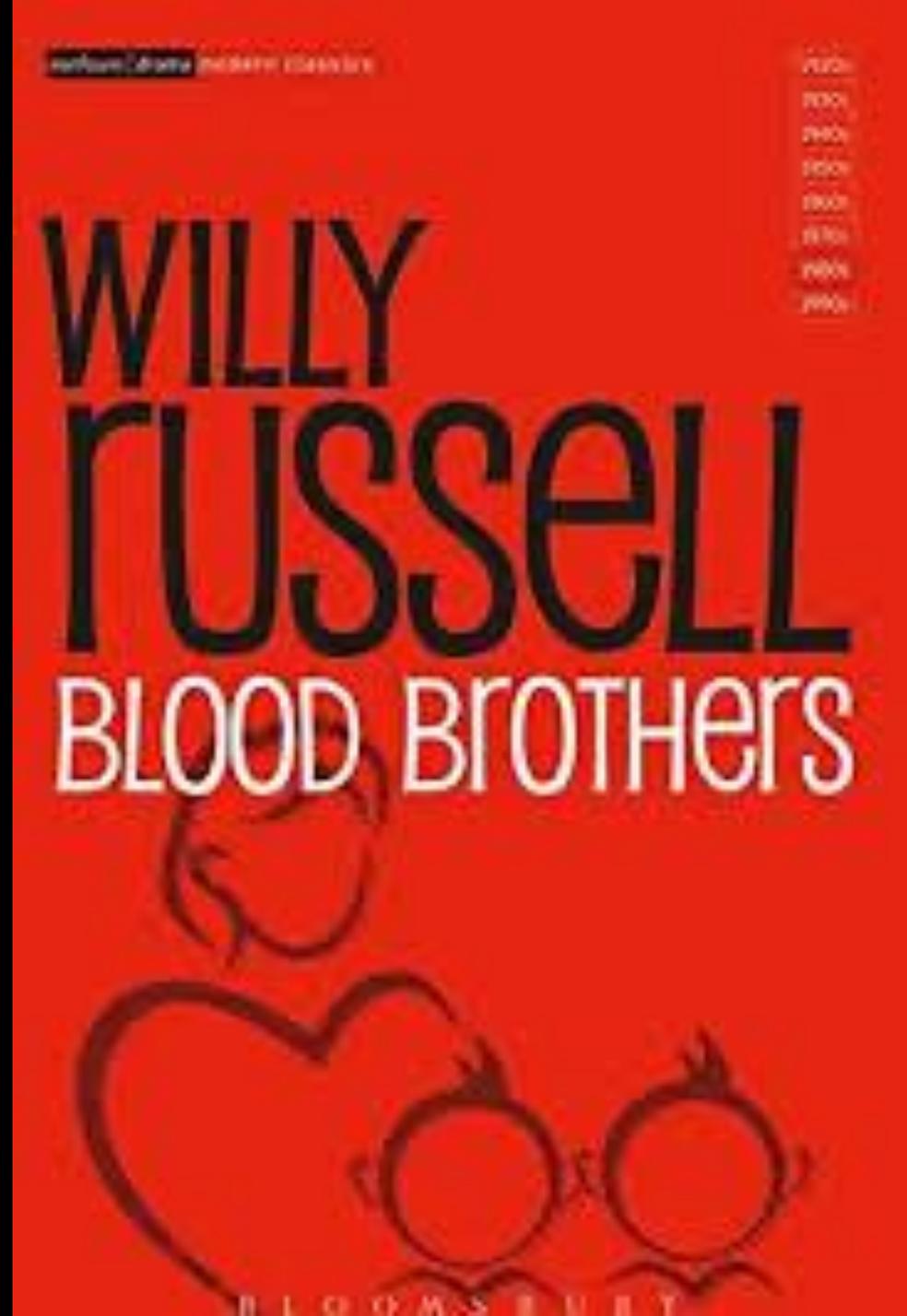


# QUESTION BREAKDOWN

Question 4: 20 Marks – 25 Minutes (Extract + Play as whole)



- Begin by writing a statement about the character overall.
- Then, Introduce character and their role and character development within the play as a whole.
- Introduce the extract, explaining where in the play it is and what the character is like at this point.
- **EXTRACT:** Give aim 1. Describe the Moment + Break down a quote with the skills used with the Intended effect
- **EXTRACT:** Give aim 2. Describe the Moment + Break down a quote with the skills used with the Intended effect
- **PLAY AS A WHOLE:** Give aim 3. Describe the Moment + Break down a quote with the skills used with the Intended effect
- **PLAY AS A WHOLE:** Give aim 4. Describe the Moment + Break down a quote with the skills used with the Intended effect
- **Final point: EXTRACT OR PLAY AS A WHOLE:** Give aim 5. Describe the Moment + Break down a quote with the skills used with the Intended effect
- Conclusion
- **Top Marks:** Will link the extract aims to the play as a whole – Similar or contrasting.
- **Top Marks:** Will cover both physical and vocal skills + quotes for every moment AND will link to the question throughout





## NATIONAL THEATRE'S VERSION OF 'PETER PAN'

There will be a choice of 3 Questions on the exam paper - we are preparing for the acting question (question 11)

Worth 32 Marks – So you should aim to spend 40 Minutes on this question.

## Section C - Response to Live Theatre



# Sample Question



## Section C, Q11

Describe how one or more actors used their vocal and physical skills to **interpret their role** within the production. Analyse and evaluate how successful they were in communicating their role to the audience.

You could make reference to:

- vocal skills, for example pitch, pace and tone of voice
- physical skills, for example body language and facial expression
- a scene or section and/or the production as a whole. (32 MARKS)



## Section C, Q 11:



Begin by naming the production you saw, which theatre it was recorded in and who directed it. (NAME, TYPE OF THEATRE, STAGE LAYOUT, GENRE/STYLE)



- **Describe the extract** you are going to discuss. Give a brief outline (1 or 2 sentences) of what has happened in the play up to this point.
- Give your **FIRST specific example** of why the acting in this extract/scene was particularly successful.
- Give a spoken line of text. Describe HOW it was performed (vocal skill or physical skill – ie accents /projection/gestures/movement/physical characterisation/facial expression/mannerisms/gestures. **Space, Face, Body, Movement, Voice (pitch, pause, pace, projection, accent, inflection, dialect.**
- Describe WHY it was performed that way
- Analyse how effective it was (e.g it made the audience understand the character more/evoked sympathy/ created humour. Link to the question.)
- Give your **SECOND specific example** of why the acting in this extract/scene was particularly successful. **+DETAILS**
- Give your **THIRD specific example** of why the acting in this extract/scene was particularly successful. **+DETAILS**
- Give your **FOURTH specific example** of why the acting in this extract/scene was particularly successful. **+DETAILS**
- **Conclusion**
- **Top Marks:** Will aim for more moments in detail. And will link to the question throughout.



# How can you prepare?



1. Re read Blood Brothers – keep reading it between now and June 2021
2. Watch the NT Version of Peter Pan – we will be doing this in lessons just before Christmas but the link is below if you want to familiarise yourself with this now:

Our school access details are: <https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com>

<https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/custom-browse?docid=nationalTheatreCollection>

Username: 2Of#0Ao\*r/  
Password: 3Hzs5My%c-

# How can you prepare?



# AQA

Realising potential



3. Read through the sample question paper via the link below to familiarise yourself with the format of the written examination

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/drama/AQA-82611-SQP.PDF>

4. read through the AQA sample responses for the written examination, parts B and C via the link below:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/drama/AQA-82611-CA.PDF>

# How can you prepare?

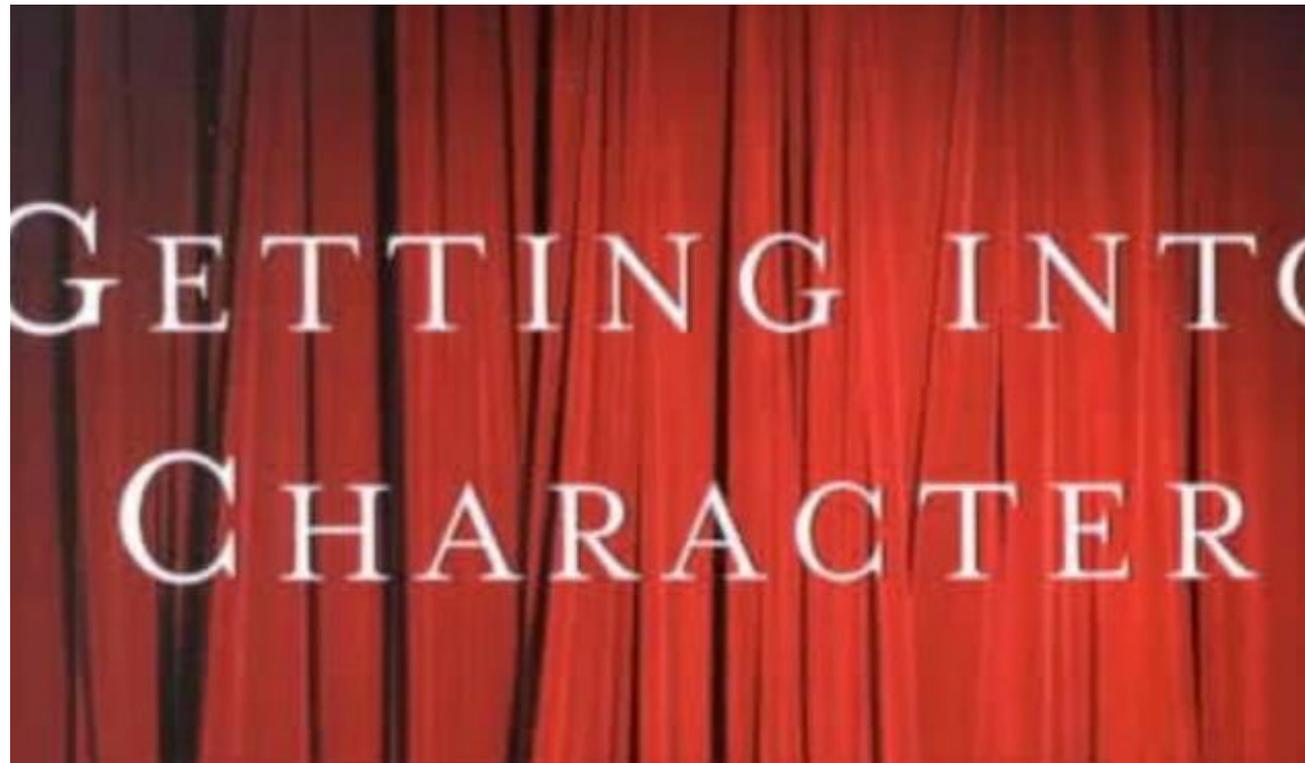
**BBC**

**Bitesize**

5. Visit BBC Bitesize website for AQA GCSE DRAMA. They have some brilliant revision material including quizzes and sample answers for the written examination.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zrnjwty>

# How can you prepare?



6. In December you will be given your script/Monologue for Component Three: Texts in Performance. **Learn this ASAP.** You can't act with a script in your hand.

- You can also do the following tasks to help prepare for this performance which will take place in February 2021:
  1. Create a **detailed backstory** for your character
  2. Research the **social, historical and cultural context** of the script/monologue
  3. Think about a **costume and any props** needed for your character and get these together. Sometimes a pair of shoes is the best way to get into role!

# HOME LEARNING

**How can you  
prepare?**

7. Complete all Home learning set via 'Show my homework' - we only have 2 x lessons a week for Drama and these will be spent focusing on the practical elements of the course so, most of the written preparation will need to be done via home learning.

**Therefore, it is VITAL that you keep up with all work set between now and June 2021.**

