










EDEXCEL PEARSON GCSE DRAMA YEAR 10 – CYCLE 1







Performance Skills

Performance skills are everything we do on stage to show character and emotions. They are split into three areas:



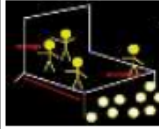
Vocal skills
(The way we use our voice)

Projection 	Making sure our voice can be heard
Volume 	How loud or how quiet
Pitch 	How high or how low
Tone 	How harsh or how soft
Pace 	How fast or how slow
Emphasis 	Stressing a word to make it stand out
Intonation 	Words or sentences going up or down in pitch at the end
Clarity 	How well you pronounce your words
Accent 	Changing your voice to show regional or national places.

Physical skills
(The way we use our bodies)

Facial expressions 	Using your face to show emotions
Body language 	Being open or closed with your body to show emotions
Posture 	Using your back and shoulders to show character or emotions
Stance 	The way you stand to show character or emotions
Gait 	The way you walk or move across the stage to show character or emotions
Gesture 	Using your hands and arms to show character or emotions

Spatial skills
(The way we use the stage)

Proxemics 	The distance between characters on stage to show their relationship. How far or how close you are from others can help to show hidden messages to your audience about how you feel towards that person.									
Levels 	Placing characters on upper or lower positions on stage to show status and relationships.									
Stage space 	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>UPSTAGE RIGHT</td> <td>UPSTAGE CENTRE</td> <td>UPSTAGE LEFT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>STAGE RIGHT</td> <td>CENTRE STAGE</td> <td>STAGE LEFT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DOWNSTAGE RIGHT</td> <td>DOWNSTAGE CENTRE</td> <td>DOWNSTAGE LEFT</td> </tr> </table>	UPSTAGE RIGHT	UPSTAGE CENTRE	UPSTAGE LEFT	STAGE RIGHT	CENTRE STAGE	STAGE LEFT	DOWNSTAGE RIGHT	DOWNSTAGE CENTRE	DOWNSTAGE LEFT
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	STAGE RIGHT	CENTRE STAGE	STAGE LEFT							
DOWNSTAGE RIGHT	DOWNSTAGE CENTRE	DOWNSTAGE LEFT								
<p style="text-align: center;">↑ AUDIENCE ↑</p> <p>Stage positions are from the actors perspective. Upstage is the lowest status part of the stage and downstage is the highest status part of the stage. Downstage centre is also known as 'the point of command'</p>										



Set Design



The set helps show where and when the story of a play takes place, while also conveying meaning to the audience.

Types of Set Pieces

FLAT- a flat piece of theatrical scenery which is painted and positioned on stage so as to give the appearance of buildings or other background. They are usually made from MDF wood.



DOOR FLAT- a flat which has extra support as have a door attached to it for entrances and exits.

BACKDROP- the scenery that hangs behind the actors in a play. The backdrop helps to provide a setting for a play. It is made from cloth which has been painted to look like a scene. It is pulled tightly across two metal beams and hung at the back of the stage.



DECKING- a type of make-shift staging which is used to create upper levels on the stage.

TRUCK- A moving platform on which a piece of scenery is built to facilitate scene changing.



REVOLVE- A turntable built into the stage floor on which scenery can be set and then turned.

PROJECTION- can be images from a projector or can be through the use of lighting and gobos. You can project a background onto a plain flat/screen to show a location.

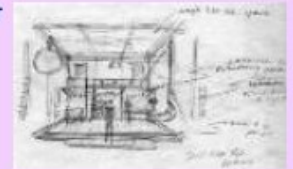


FLIES- The flies or 'fly system' is a rigging system which operates above the stage. It is a series of ropes, pulleys and weights which enable crew to quickly and safely hoist up and down curtains, scenery or people.

The set helps show where and when the story of a play takes place, while also conveying meaning to the audience.

Conveying setting

The most essential aspect of set design is to show the audience where the action takes place, which might be as general as a country or as specific as a room within a house.



Conveying period

The set design should suggest the period of the play. For example- An Inspector Calls is set in 1912 so the decor and furniture should match this.



Communicating themes or symbols

The set design can also communicate abstract concepts, such as themes and symbols to help communicate messages and context.





Costume Design



Costume is an important aspect of a production, as it helps to establish a character, convey the context of the play and support the style of the production.

Establishing a Character

Performers can find it easier to 'become' their character once they try their costume on.

Costumes can:



Provide the audience with basic information about a character, such as their age, gender, occupation and economic and social background



Reveal lots of information about a character's personality, eg a vain character might wear a flamboyant outfit to draw attention to themselves, while a shy character might wear plain clothes in dull colours



Reveal information about a character's circumstances, helping to tell their story, eg a character might begin the play wearing smart clothes but by the end of the play their costume might look creased and untidy to help communicate their journey and what they have experienced.

Conveying the Context of the Play

Costumes can also convey the context of the play, including the time period and geographical setting, following fashions and styles that evolve from one decade to the next. Performers wearing dinner jackets, bow ties and top hats could suggest the historical setting of the piece before any dialogue is spoken.



Through local cultural dress or references to the climate, costume design can also help to convey the geographical setting of a play.

KEYWORD	DEFINITION	KEYWORD	DEFINITION
Base	Foundation colour used for stage makeup	Swatch	A small sample of fabric
Clown white	White makeup often used by mimes	Foundation	Makeup the colour of one's skin
Collodion	A clear, thick liquid used on the skin to make scars	Makeup Designer	The person responsible for creating makeup designs for a production
Costume designer	Person in charge of designing or otherwise obtaining costumes for a show	Putty	A pliable substance used in a character makeup to build a false nose, chin, or forehead
Costume plot	A list of every character and his/her costume for each scene	Stippling	Adding colour and texture to a surface by dabbing it lightly with a paint-filled sponge or rag
Costume parade	When actors walk onstage in full costume to determine comfort, utility, movement, and proper lighting	Dress rehearsal	The final rehearsal before opening night, run without stopping with full makeup and costume and all production elements in place
Crepe hair	Artificial hair made of wool used for making beards and moustaches	Wig	A covering for the head made of real or artificial hair



Sound Design



Sound and music are used in theatre to convey meaning and atmosphere. Technical aspects need to be considered, as well as the selection of appropriate sources

Diegetic/Non-Diegetic Sound

Diegetic:

Sound that characters on stage can hear. E.G Telephone ringing that a character answers



Non Diegetic:

Any sound that a character cannot hear, but instead creates the mood or atmosphere for the performance. For example, if a piece of music is played to accompany a scene (called underscoring), but cannot be heard by the characters, then it is non-diegetic.



Types of Sound

Sound effects:

Naturalistic effects to help the realism such as a doorbell, phone ringing, birds tweeting.



Ambient sound: Creating an atmosphere such as synths, soundscapes, symbolic sounds like water/waves

Music:

Songs or pieces of instrumental music



Applying Sound



Live or recorded- live music can be used by a band and/or the actors dependent on the type and style of Production.



Underscoring - Underscoring is the use of music underneath dialogue to help create an atmosphere or to convey a theme.



Mixing- Mixing is the process of layering one sound with another. This can be done live or pre-recorded. For example, a soundscape could include a sound effect of rain on a window mixed with whispered voices



Lighting Design



Lighting plays a big part in any theatre production. Lighting is used to portray time, location, atmosphere and mood.

Types of Stage Lights



SPOTLIGHT- has a hard-edged effect, it lights a tight circle on the stage and usually only a very small area. Coloured filters can be used with this lamp.



FRESNEL- more subtle than a spotlight, used for a softer edged effect. It's useful for good overall light when used with others. Coloured filters can be used with this lamp.



FLOODLIGHT- produces a clear wide-angled light, but there's little control over the spread of the light. Coloured filters can be used with this lamp.



COLOURED GELS- Added to the front of some lanterns so that they throw coloured light onto the stage.



GOBO- a sheet inserted on a frame at the front of the light with a design cut into it. It filters the light, creating a picture effect on the stage. EG: to create the leaves of a forest, or the bars of a prison.



STROBELIGHT- a flashing light, used for special effects. It's often used to give the effect of old movies. It produces a jerky effect on the movements of actors when used on its own

Lighting Intensity

High intensity is very important, such as when drawing attention to a featured performer. In other moments, low intensity can help to define functions such as given circumstances and mood.



Different intensities draw the audience focus to one particular thing.



Balanced wash of light with equal intensity.

Referring to intensity:
Dim/low, medium or high intensity or you can talk about it in percentages.



Colour Symbolism

The colour of the light can help to show setting/time of day, create certain atmospheres and help symbolise emotions



Blue

Sadness, moonlight, night time, eerie, loss, water



Red

Blood, death, danger, anger, conflict, seduction/sex



Green

Scientific, uncomfortable, eerie, unnatural, supernatural, jealousy, nature, forestry



Yellow

Outdoors, sunlight, morning/evening, happy, joy



White

Clinical, washed out, bright/can see everything, artificial, eerie



Pink/purple

Love, passion, seduction/sex