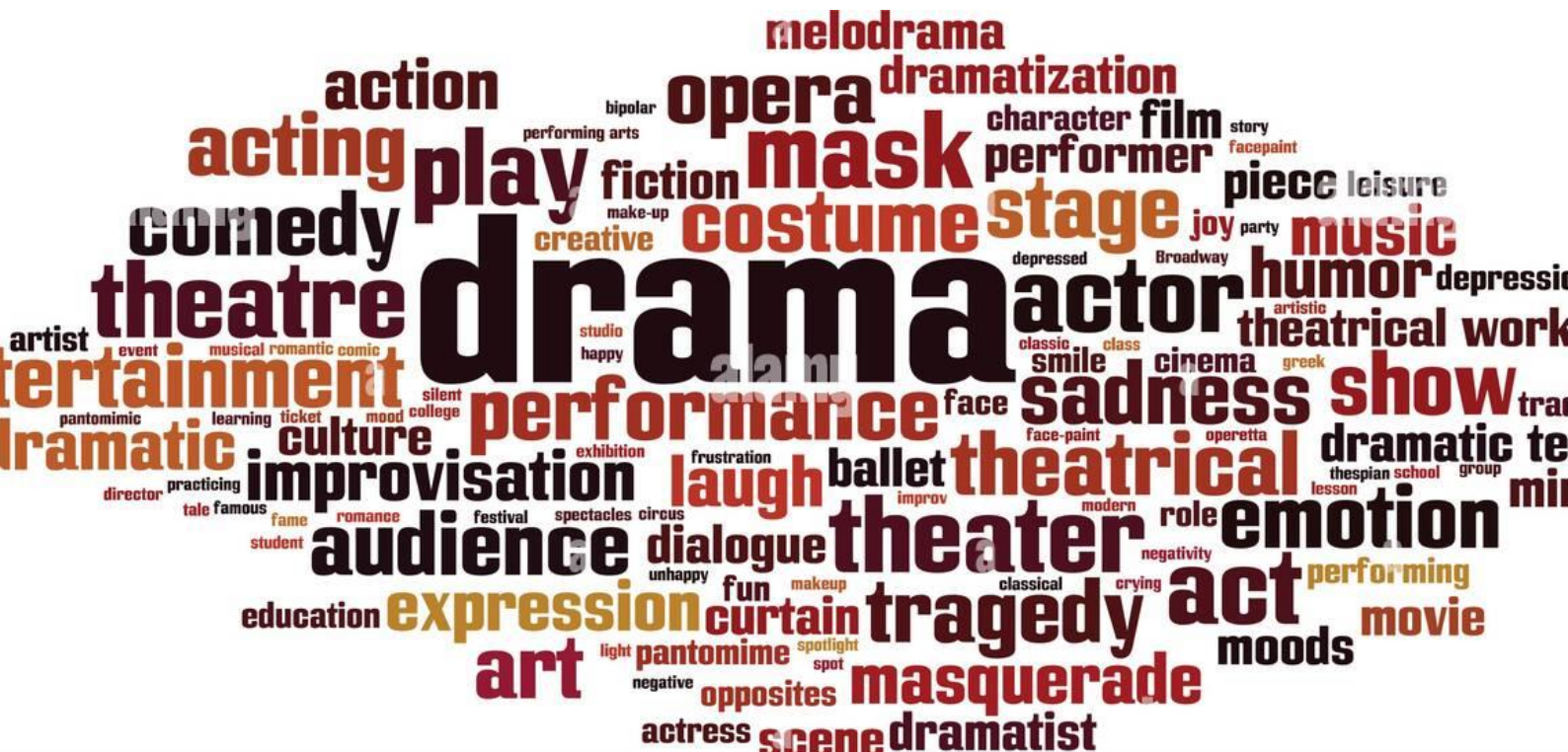


GCSE Drama



Drama Terminology Booklet

GCSE



LACON
CHILDE
SCHOOL

...more than just a school

Name: _____

Class:

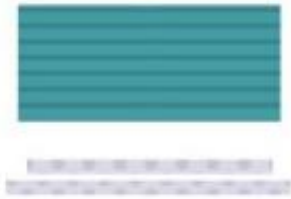
Teacher:

Target: _____



Types of Staging

End-on



End-on

- Proscenium arch, without the decorative arch!
- Audience sit on one side, performers perform on the other.
- Everything is directed in the same direction – simple blocking.

In the round



Theatre in the Round

- Audience on *all* sides
- Walkways to enter/exit.
- Intimate and immersive.
- Performers must move and change positions frequently.
- Set can obstruct sightlines.

Thrust



Thrust

- Stage extends into the audience area.
- Seating on three sides.
- Back wall can be used for hanging backdrops and scenery.
- Blocking is easier.

Traverse



Traverse

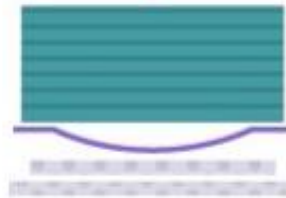
- Long, narrow stage with audience on either side.
- Audience can see each other.
- Scenery can obstruct sightlines.
- Backdrops cannot be used.



Promenade

- The audience follow the performers around the space.
 - Often site-specific in interesting and unusual locations.
 - Blocking is challenging.
- Audience and performance can be unpredictable.

Proscenium arch



Proscenium Arch

- Describes the frame separating performers & audience.
- Fourth wall & naturalism.
- Often raked seating and drapes/tabs to hide wings.
- Blocking is easy.
- Not as immersive.



Site-specific

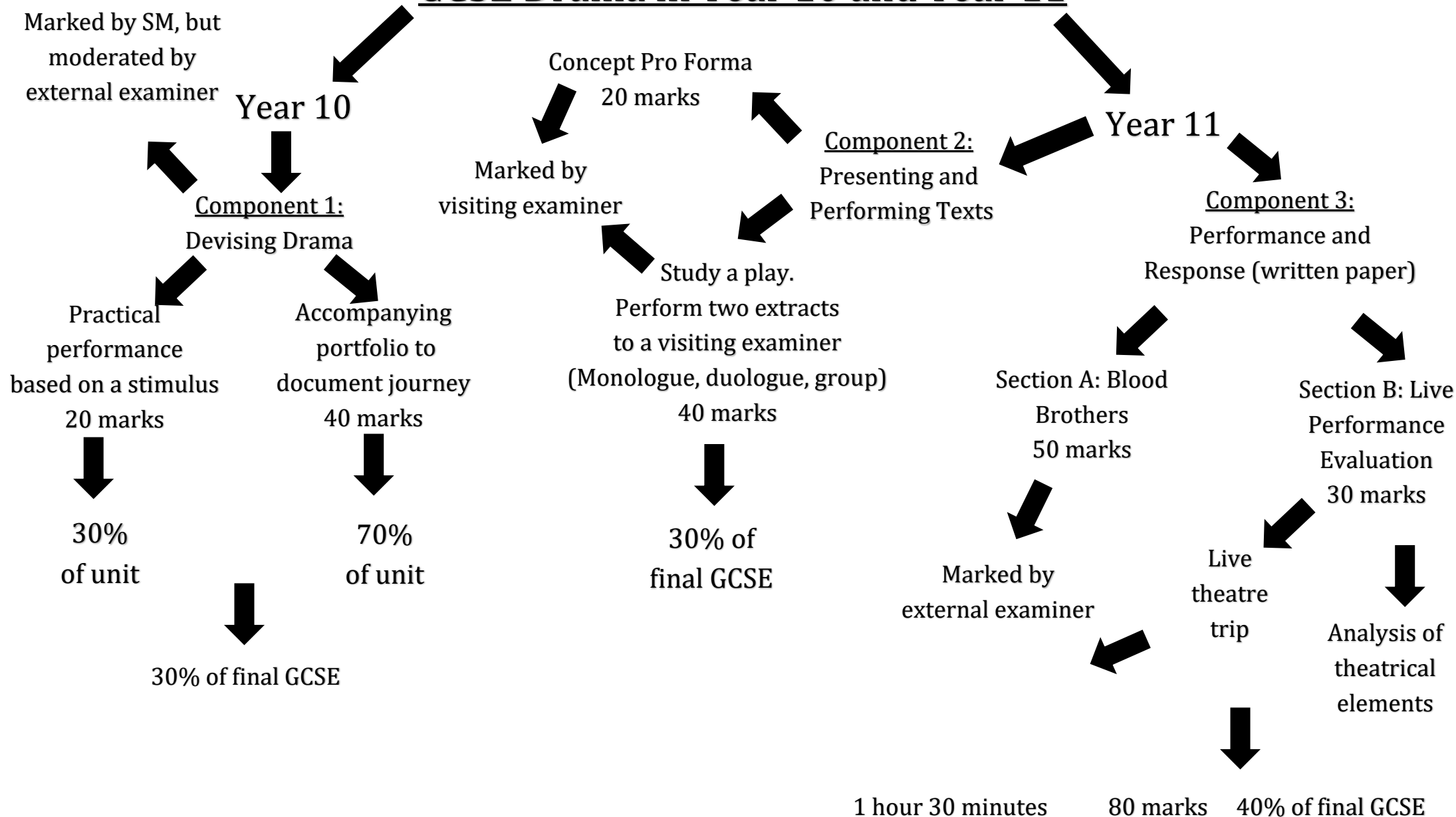
- Performance staged at a unique location which isn't a traditional theatre.
- The location is usually linked to the performance contextually.
- Can be difficult logistically.
- Can be effective and immersive if thought through.



Black Box

- A simple studio space, commonly painted black.
- Staging is flexible here.
- More contemporary style of theatre.
- Lighting can be innovative.
- Absence of colour gives audience sense of "anyplace".

GCSE Drama in Year 10 and Year 11



KS4 – Introduction to GCSE Drama Knowledge Organiser

Still Image

A Still image is when the action in a play or scene is frozen, as in a photograph or video frame.

Elements you need to make it look interesting are:

Levels
Gesture
Space
Facial expressions

You can use a still image at the start and end of a play.

You can also use it during a performance to highlight a key moment.

Role-play

Role-play is the acting out of a scene or performance in a particular role.

It is about being a CHARACTER and being someone else; it is acting as someone else.

Thought tracking

Thought tracking is when a character says their thoughts and feelings out loud to the audience when everyone else has frozen.

Sometimes the character's thoughts/emotions are different to what they are showing or saying on the outside.



Dramatic Irony

Dramatic irony is when the audience knows what is happening but the actors on stage do not know what is happening.

Split stage

Split stage is when two or more scenes are performed on stage at the same time. It helps to show different locations.

Vocal skills

Tone of voice – the emotion of a character shown through their voice. For example; angry, happy, sad.

Pitch – how high or how low your voice is.

Pace – the speed in which you say the dialogue. For example; fast or slow.

Pause – leaving a gap between words to add tension.

Volume – how loud or how quiet you are. This can help show your character's emotions.

General Drama terminology/vocabulary

Devising – Creating a piece of drama from a starting point/stimulus.

Improvisation – Working as a team or individually to explore ideas practically and create a performance.

Characterisation – Creating a character; changing your voice and movement to play a particular role.

Blocking – working out where actors will stand and move to and from.

Props – Objects that are held and used by an actor on stage to make a performance more realistic.

Movement techniques

Gesture – the actions used by an actor to show what the character is feeling or what they are doing.

Facial expressions – changes made to the face to show how the character is feeling.

Body language – the emotion shown by an actor's movement or position of their body.

Posture – the position that a character is sitting or standing in. It helps to show their emotions.

Hot-seating

Hot-seating is when you are asked questions in character and you have to answer them in character.

We use hot-seating in Drama as it helps to understand your character and their background and get you to think about who they are.

Open ended questions are better to ask as it draws out more information.

LIGHTING TERMINOLOGY: Lighting is a very technical area and there are many types of lights (or lanterns).



← **Coloured gels** can be added to the front of some lanterns so that they throw coloured light onto the stage. Some can also be fitted with what is known as a **gobo**. This is 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. For example, a gobo could be used to create a dappled lighting effect to look like the leaves of a forest, or could be cut to create strips of light onstage which look like the bars of a prison. This example is a YELLOW gel with star shaped Gobos.



Spotlight → has a hard-edged effect, used to light characters or elements on the stage. Coloured filters can be used with this lamp.



← **Fresnel** - Used for a softer edged effect, with a diffusing lens in front of the lamp. It's useful for good overall light when used with others. Coloured filters can be used with this lamp.



Flood light → 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.



← **Strobe** - 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.



Parcan → Used for general cover and can hold a gel or gobo in order to project colour or shapes onto the stage.



← **Barn Doors** – Adjustable flaps used to shape the light and how it is projected onto the stage.



Follow spot → A miniature lantern ideal for hiding in small parts of a set or along the downstage edge of the stage. Provides a surprisingly bright soft-edged pool of light.

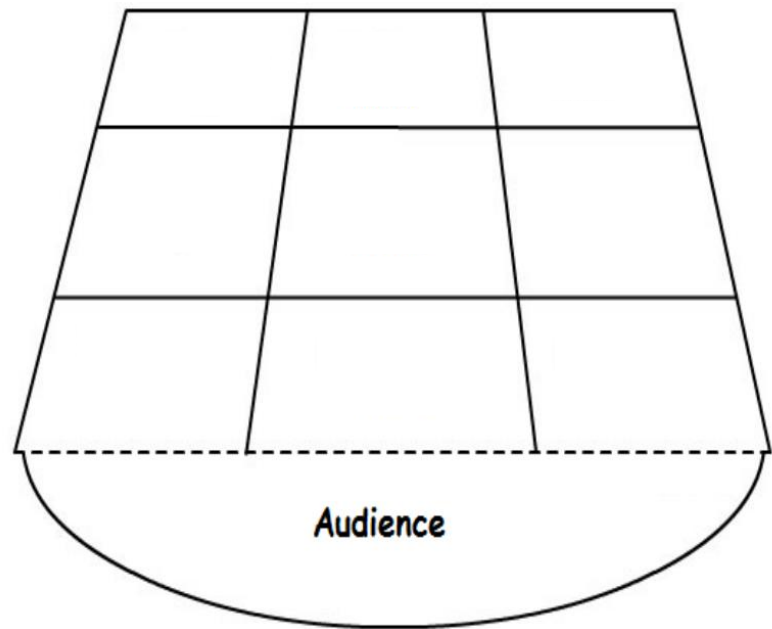


Back light – the light being projected from behind the actor to create shadows.

Shadows / silhouettes – creating dark visuals based around low lighting and shadows.

Lacon Childe School

Parts of the stage



Roles in Theatre

Terminology	Who are they? What are they responsible for?
Performer	
Understudy	
Director (Artistic Director)	
Stage Manager	
Playwright	
Set Designers	
Costume designer	
Puppet Designer	
Fight Director	
Composer	
Choreographer	

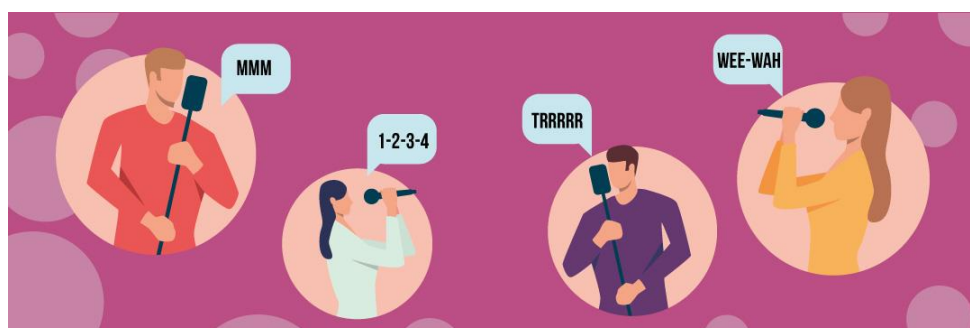
Physical Characterisation

Terminology	What is it?
Facial Expression	
Eye contact	
Gesture	
Posture	
Gait	
Levels	
Proxemics	
Open body language	
Closed body language	



Vocal Characterisation

Terminology	What is it?
Tone	
Pitch	
Vocal expression	
Volume	
Accent	
Intonation	
Pace	
Projection	
Diction	
Speech impediment	
Slang	
Colloquial language	
Standard English	





Sound

Terminology	What is it?
Soundscape	
Choral speaking	
Diegetic sound	
Non-diegetic sound	



Rehearsal Devices

Terminology	What is it?
Back Story	
Hot Seating	
Role on the Wall	
Role reversal / role transfer	
Thought-tracking	
Writing in role	
Angel vs Devil	
Conscience Alley	

Drama Devices

Terminology	What is it?
Monologue	
Duologue	
Cross-cutting	
Freeze frame	
Still image	
Tableaux	
Improvisation	
Choral movement	
Action Narration	
Physical Theatre	
Flashback	
Flashforward	
Ensemble speaking / movement.	

Understanding Styles of Theatre

Add information to the table below about the different styles of theatre – a mix of realism, not naturalistic theatre, and physical theatre.

<u>Practitioner</u>	<u>Type of Theatre</u>	<u>What does this style involve?</u>	<u>What might you find in this style of theatre?</u>
Bertolt Brecht 			
Konstantin Stanislavski 			
Frantic Assembly 	Physical Theatre		

	Theatre of Cruelty		
Box House Theatre Company	Platform Theatre		
	Forum Theatre		
Other:			
Other:			

Constantin Stanislavski
1863 - 1938



'The actor must use his imagination to be able to answer all questions (when, where, why, how).'

Believed that the audience should emotionally connect with the characters.

Actors should use their own experience to make their characters as believable as possible.

Terminology and techniques:

- The fourth wall
- Emotional memory
- The magic 'if'
- Sense memory
- Objectives
- Given circumstances
- Subtext
- Method of physical actions

Naturalism

Bertolt Brecht
1898 – 1956



'Art is not a mirror to reflect reality, but a hammer with which to shape it.'

Believed that theatre should be used to spread a message and comment on society.

The audience should always be aware they are watching a play and constantly questioning what they see.

Terminology and techniques:

- Breaking the fourth wall
- Alienation (Verfremdungseffekt)
- Gestus
- Use of placards
- Narration
- Multi-role
- Minimal set/costume/props
- Masks

Epic theatre

Augusto Boal
1931 – 2009



'The theatre is a weapon, and it is the people who should wield it.'

Believed that theatre gave people the ability to take control and make changes.

Well known for Forum Theatre, in which the audience can stop a piece of drama and step in to change the outcome.

Terminology and techniques:

- Forum theatre
- Improvisation
- Public theatre
- Audience participation
- 'Spect-actor'
- Exploring social issues

Theatre of the Oppressed

Jacques Lecoq
1921 - 1999



'The body knows things about which the mind is ignorant.'

Believed theatre was about using the body to tell stories.

Focus on physical theatre, movement and mime.

Movement generates the emotion (muscle memory)

Levels:

1. Catatonic (jellyfish)
2. Relaxed (Californian)
3. Neutral (no story)
4. Curious/alert (Mr Bean)
5. Reactive/Suspense (melodrama)
6. Passionate (opera)
7. Tragic (petrified)

Seven levels of Tension

Frantic Assembly
1994 – Present



'We began with little more than a fierce work ethic and a desire to do something different and to do it differently.'

World-renowned theatre company who use physical theatre to devise performance.

Wanted to create non-realistic pieces of theatre through the use of movement and music.

Terminology and techniques:

- Chair duet
- Hymn hands
- Lifts
- Walk the grid
- Mirroring
- Round-By-Through

Physical theatre

Knowledge Organiser

Blood Brothers by Willy Russell



Set from 1960 – 1980
In Liverpool, England



Key Themes

Childhood Adolescence
Superstition
Violence
Nature Vs Nurture
Social Class

Features of form	
1. A didactic play	A drama which intends to teach, especially with regard to morals.
2. Tragedy	An event causing great suffering, destruction and distress.
3. Parallels and contrasts	Parallels – similarities. Contrasts – differences.
4. Narrator	A person who gives the spoken account of something. Omniscient to remind the audience about the ending of the play.
5. Stage directions	An instruction in the text of the play indicating the movement, the position or tone of an actor, or the sound effects and lighting.
6. Song	A single work of music that is typically intended to be sung by the human voice. It is through the songs that the characters reveal their true thoughts and feelings.
7. Dialogue	A conversation between two or more people.
8. Montage	A series of short sequences are edited into a sequence to condense space.
9. Foreshadowing	A warning or indication of a future event.
10. Symbols and motifs	A thing that represents or stands for something else. A motif is a dominant or recurring image of idea.
11. Accent and dialect versus Standard English	Standard English is any form of the English Language that is accepted as a national norm. Accent is a distinctive way of pronouncing a language. Dialect is a particular form of language which is peculiar to a specific range or social group.

Context	
Willy Russell	- Born into a working class family. - He grew up near Liverpool. - Father had various jobs including mining and factory work. - Annoyed at treatment of intelligent working class and associated stereotypes. - Left school at 15 with just one O'level: a D in English Language. Went to evening classes and university to become a teacher.
Liverpool	- A major port and the centre for trade providing lots of jobs at the docks. - During the industrial decline, Liverpool became very vulnerable as the docks were shut and unemployment rates soared. - Some men turned to crime and gangs in order to support themselves and their families. There were also riots in 1980s. - Prime Minister in 1979. - Reduced the power of the trade unions and closed down many factories etc leading to widespread unemployment.
Margaret Thatcher	
Skelmersdale	- In the 1960s the government began building New Towns. These were small, existing towns which were extended and redeveloped to provide more housing for nearby cities. - Working class families were rehoused here in the 1960s. - Working class vs Middle class divide - More opportunities for middle classes reflected in education, job prospects and wealth.
Class	
Education	- The Education Act of 1944 led to 'secondary modern schools' and 'grammar schools.' - Top 20% went to a grammar school with an academic curriculum. Secondary modern taught more practical subjects. 7% of students were educated in private, fee-paying schools. The average boarding school fees in the 1960s would have been approximately 25%.

Characters	
1. Mrs Johnstone	Naive, loving and maternal, caring, rash, strong, generous, good, selfless, uneducated, superstitious, lively, zesty, trapped, victim, helplessness,
2. Mrs Lyons	Lonely, cold, wealthy, dependent, inconsiderate, pampered, self-centred, manipulative, over-protective, anxious, unreasonable, mad
3. Mickey	Friendly, excitable, adventurous, sneaky, cast-off, wants to impress, shy, determined, bright, witty, hard-working, ambitious, trapped, victim
4. Edward	Friendly, generous, naive, restricted, impulsive, lacks compassion, condescending, sneaky
5. Sammy	Aggressive, threatening, sarcastic, anti-social, criminal, hostile
6. Linda	Kind, compassionate, feisty, humorous, strong-willed, supportive, protective, poor, untrustworthy, desperate

