Theatrical skills	5
	-

Theatrical skills 1 Vocal skills 2		Physical skills 3		
<u>Freeze frame:</u> A f	rozen moment in time	Pace: how fast or how slow t	he character speaks	Facial expression: showing emotion of the character through
expressing a char	acter / scenario.	Power: how loud or how quie	et a character speaks	the face
Still image: froze	n image that symbolises an	Pitch: how high our how low	a character speaks	Body Language: using your body to show the characters
idea or relationsh	nip	Pause: moments where the c	haracter stops talking	emotion
Thought tracking	: a character saying their	Tone: shows what the charac	ter thinking or how they	Physicality: using your body to show the character
thoughts aloud		are feeling		Gesture: a movement of part of the body to show meaning.
	aracter is asked questions	Accent: a distinctive way of p	ronouncing a language	Mannerisms: habitual gesture or way of speaking or
and the actor res	ponds in role	Emphasis: stressing a particu	lar word or phrase	behaving in role
	the audience what is	within a sentence to indicate	importance	Gait: the way a character walks
happening		Rhythm: related to pace, refe	erring to the pattern of	Eye Contact: how often two characters look directly into one
Mime: suggesting	g action, character, or	sound when speaking		another's eyes
emotion without words <u>Resonance:</u> the quality in a sound of being deep,		ound of being deep, full	Pace: the speed of a performer's movements	
Improvisation: creating a scene without a and reverberating		and reverberating		Quality of Movement: helps express the type of character,
script		Volume: another way to talk	about power, how loud	e.g. a fairy character might move with a light and flowing
Proxemics: the use of space on stage to or o		or quiet the voice is.		quality
create meaning Qua		Quality: the basic sound of the voice – a character		Space: how the performers or items are positioned on the
Levels: the use of height to show status		might talk with a breathy vocal quality or a creaky		stage
Status: the power one character has over		quality.		Levels: use of different heights
another		Intonation: the rise and fall of the voice. For example		Specialist Skills: Mask work, mime, physical theatre, dance,
Physical Theatre: creating objects, set or		a clear movement up at the end of a sentence when		stage combat, ensemble movement
meaning through the use of the body		we ask questions, intonation also helps us to show		<u>Physical Tension</u> : how tight or relaxed a performer's muscles
(4) <u>Command words:</u> what we		what we mean		are.
	Can you find where in the	porformanco thoy have		Spatial Awareness: the ability to be aware of props and
IDENTIFY	•	performance they have		other actors around you
	used a particular skill?		Year 10 Drama	Interaction with others: This could include touch or use of
ANALYSE	Why have they used this	cechnique / skill, what	spacific	close proxemics to show the audience something
	was the effect?		<u>specific</u>	<u>Choral movement:</u> where a group of actors move in the
	vocabulary		<u>vocabulary</u>	same way at the same time (synchronized)
<u>EVAULATE</u>	Were they successful whe	-	Component 1	Posture: How straight or slouched a character stands
	skill? If so why? If not why not?			Stillness: lack of movement for a dramatic affect

Year 10 Com 1: Section A: Roles & **Responsibilities:**

Theatre Maker: Understudy What they do:

Learning a part, including lines and movements, so they are able to take over a role for someone if needed when there is a planned or unexpected absence.

Theatre Maker:

Playwright What they do:

Writing the script of the play, including the dialogue and stage direction

Theatre Maker:

Puppet Designer What they do:

Designing the puppets for a production, taking into account the style of puppets and how they will be operated.

Theatre Maker: Costume Designer What they do:

Designing what the actors wear on stage. Making sure that costumes are appropriate for the style and period of the piece. Ensuring the costumes fit the audience.

Theatre Maker: Theatre Manager

What they do:

1

Running the theatre building, including overseeing the front of house staff (ushers) and the box office staff who sell tickets.

Theatre Maker:

Director



Overseeing the creative aspects of the production. Developing a 'concept' or central unifying idea for the production. Liaising with designers, rehearsing the actors and ensuring that all technical elements of the play are ready. Giving 'notes' to the actors to help improve their performances and agreeing the blocking (or movement) of the actors

Theatre Maker: Technician

What they do:

Operating the technical equipment, such as the lighting and sound boards, during the performance.

Theatre Maker: Performer What they do:

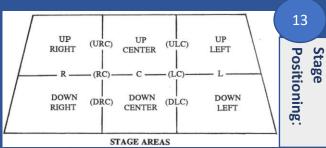
Appearing in a production, for example by acting, dancing or singing. Creating a performance or assuming a role on stage in front of the audience.

Theatre Maker:

Sound Designer

What they do:

Designing the sound required for the performance, which may include music and sound effects. Considering if amplification, such as the use of microphones, is needed, and creating a sound plot.





8

Theatre Maker: Set Designer

What they do:

Designing the set of the play and the set dressing (objects placed on the stage). Providing sketches and other design materials before overseeing the creation of the set.

Theatre Maker:

Stage Manager

What they do:

Running the backstage elements of the play and supervising the backstage crew. Organising the rehearsal schedule and keeping lists of props and other technical needs. Creating a prompt book and calling the cues for the performance.

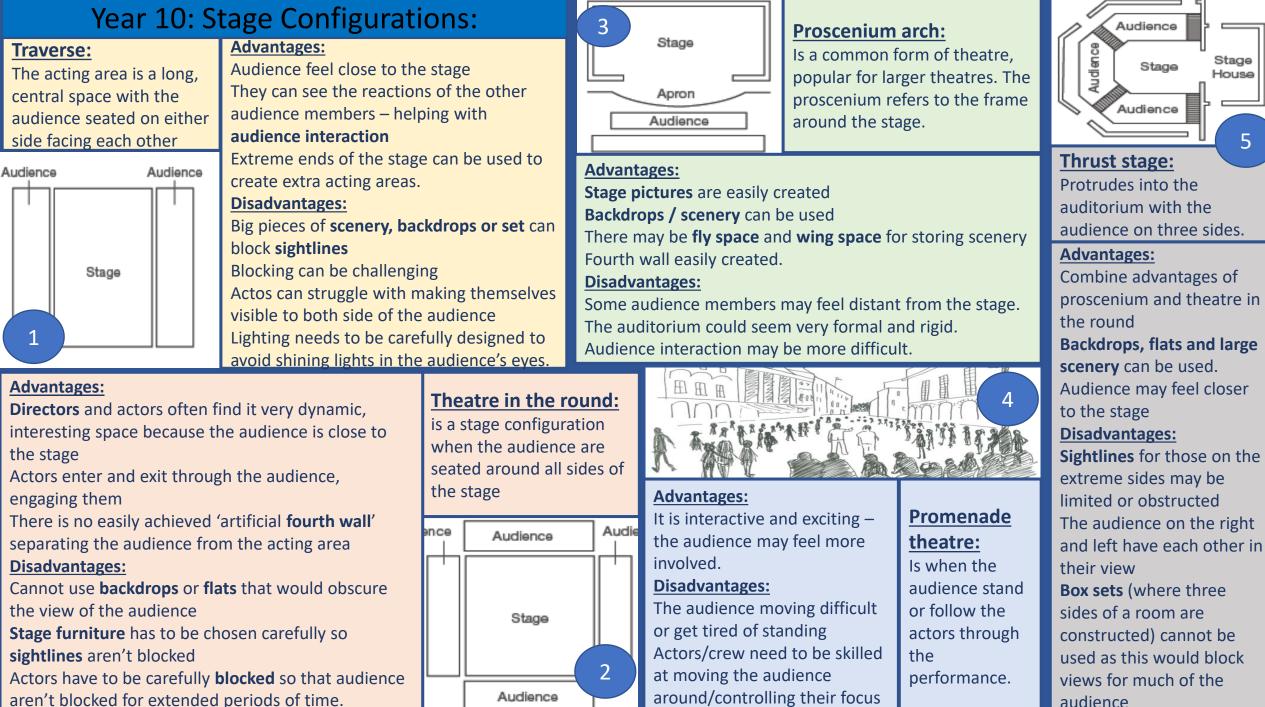
Theatre Maker: Lighting Designer What they do:

Designing the lighting states and effects that will be used in a performance. Understanding the technical capabilities of the theatre and creating a lighting plot.

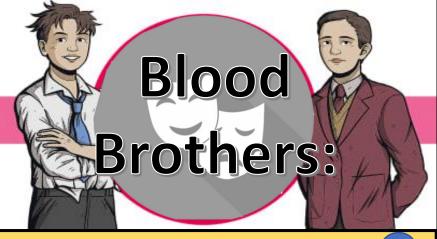
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aren't blocked for extended periods of time.



Brief plot Summery:

Blood Brothers, a musical by Liverpudlian playwright Willy Russell, revolves around twin boys (Mickey and Edward) who are separated at birth and brought up in completely different environments in the city. The play, set in the 1960s, is divided into two acts, with songs throughout.

Mickey is brought up with his seven older siblings by his struggling single mother, Mrs Johnstone. His twin brother, Edward, however is brought up as the only child of the wealthy Lyons family, who live nearby, after Mrs Lyons persuaded Mrs Johnstone to hand over one of her twins at birth. Mickey and Edward don't meet each other until they're seven years old, but immediately become best friends and blood brothers. The bond continues when the boys are teenagers and both live in the countryside, despite them both being in love with Mickey's neighbour Linda. However, as they get older, the huge difference in their backgrounds pulls them apart and eventually leads to their tragic deaths.

2 **Contextual information:** - Willy Russell wrote Blood Brothers in 1981. - It was first performed in

Liverpool before transferring to the West End.

- It was first performed as a musical in 1983.

- Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was in power at this time.

- There was a very high rate of unemployment at this time.

- The play is set in Liverpool, as areas of high unemployment within the industrial working class.

Stylistic features and symbols:

Reprise – a song or part of a song that is repeated. Often it is intermingled with a new song. E.g. Marilyn Monroe.

other'

Motif – A dominant or recurring image or idea in a text e.g. the gun. Juxtaposition – Two opposite ideas are near each other in a piece of writing. Foreshadowing – when the author alludes to what is to come in the text. **Parallel** – two corresponding things that run side by side, e.g. the school scenes. **Cyclical** – the structure of the play is cyclical as it starts and ends in the same place.

Soliloquy – when a character speaks their thoughts aloud, to themselves. It is different to a monologue which is one-character speaking, but in front of others Antihero – a central character in a story, film, or drama who lacks conventional heroic attributes.

Narrator - echoes the function of the Greek Chorus, asks the audience to detach and judge.

Stage Directions - used prolifically by Russell to describe the movement and actions of characters.

Year 10: Comp 1, Section B:

KEY QUOTES: - 'Y'know the devil's got your number' - 'And do we blame superstition for what came to pass? Or could it be what we, the English, have come to know as class?' - 'The welfare have already been onto me' - 'See this means that we're blood brothers	Key characters: 5 Narrator – takes on multiple roles Mrs Johnstone – Mother of the twins, impoverished. Mrs Lyons – takes Eddie, privileged. Mickey – poor twin, frequently downtrodden Eddie – rich twin, not streetwise Sammy - delinquent brother to Mickey Linda – Mickey's girlfriend and	Ge Mu Lir Th Na Cla Su Gat Fat Pov Juc
we're blood brothers, an' that we always	Linda – Mickey's girlfriend and Eddie's secret love Mr Lyons – Father of Edward	Lo
have to stand by each		Vic

00

enre: Book usical. inks to Epic heatre nemes: ature vs nurture ass divide perstition otherhood te/destiny wer dgement ve olence

(6)

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How to approach question:

Technical language – use the accurate terminology to describe each aspect of a production, such as performance skills, design features and stage configurations Examples from the play – include examples (e.g. quotes, context or events) that demonstrate understanding of the play and support the point your making. Detailed suggestions- give specific details on how you would perform, design and direct a production that will help the examiner to visualise your ideas.

Effect on the audience – describe the desired effect of a production on the audience., as well as how this effect might be created using theatrical techniques.

Technical Theatre:

Year 10 Drama

LIGHTING:

- Position

Positioning: scale, perspective, sightlines, levels, entrances/exits, location (SL/SR/CS/US/DS), relationship, to stage space (**Stage Configurations:** proscenium, in the round, traverse, thrust, promenade, end-on) **Furniture:** style, period, material, colour

Key Terms:

SET:

Truck = A moveable piece of staging that is on wheels.

- Projection on a cyclorama = a projected image is shone onto the back of the stage creating a location (this image can be changed during the show)
- **Flats =** can be used to create temporary back drops for scenes. A flat can be decorated in any way to depict locations.
- **Backdrop =** a painted background used at the back of the stage to create location
- Revolving stage = the stage can revolve allowing for quick scene changes or to suggest movement
- Automation = this is a piece of furniture that is controlled with a controller and can therefore move around the stage seemingly independently
- Naturalistic set design = attempts to create a completely realistic representation of the location absolute attention to detail.
- Mminimalistic set design = used symbols to emphasize themes, used props to represent location e.g. bed = bedroom

COSTUME:

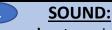
-Fresnel = soft edged light, with a diffused lens. Its useful for good overall light. Coloured gels can be added

-Spotlight = fixed light with a hard edge effect, used to light characters or set pieces. Can create a restricted space. Gels can be used.

-Follow Spot = same as a spot light but can follow the movement around the stage

-Flood light = clear wide-angled light, with little control over its spread. Gels can be added

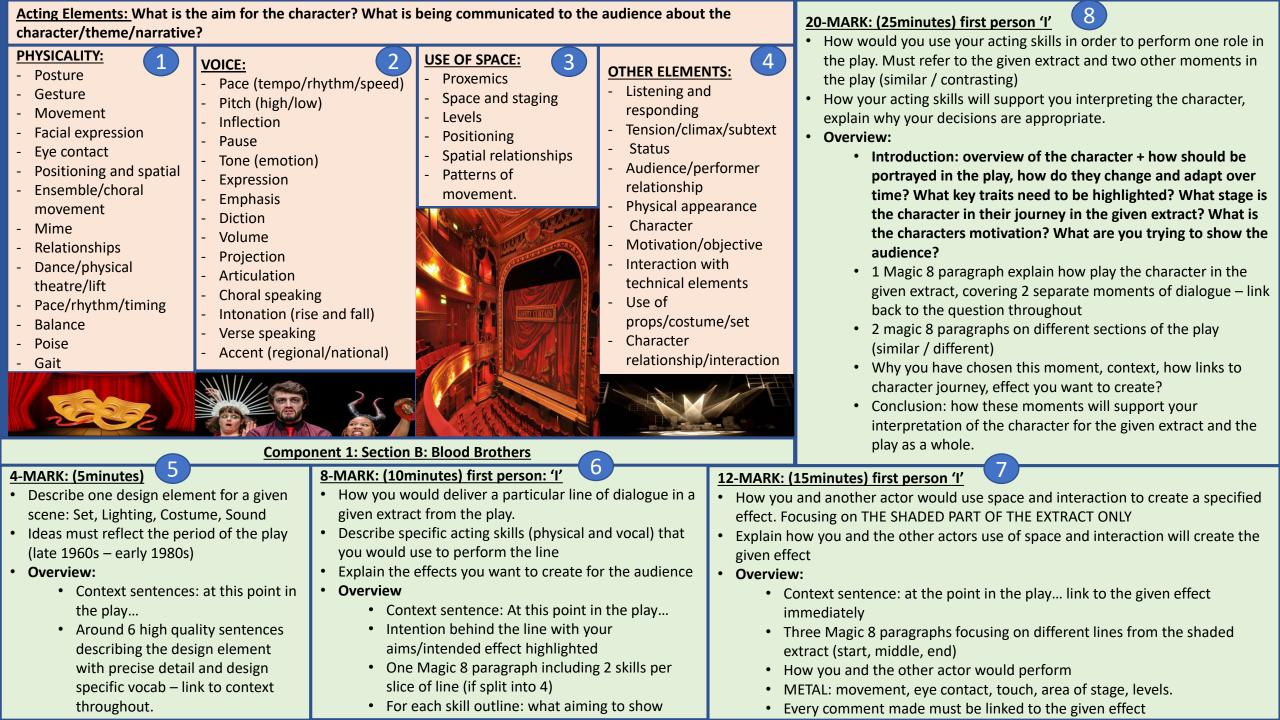
- -Birdie = lantern that can be place on the set or at the front of the stage (not very strong) this can also be called Practical lighting
- -Gobo = projects a shape onto the stage in order to create an effect
- -Gel = a coloured film that can be added to specific lights to change the colour -Focus = where on the stage is being lit up (e.g. center stage)
- -Intensity = how bright or dim the lights are, high intensity = bright lights



Δ

- **Live sound:** actor voice, on-stage action, live instruments, vocals.
- Recorded sound: music, sound effects, soundscape
- **Effects:** echo, distortion, volume, amplification, pitch, reverb, fade, crossfade.
- Diegetic sound: sound within the world of the play, both the audience and the characters can hear it.
- Non-Diegetic sound: sound outside the world of the play, only the audience can hear it: used to create atmosphere
- Underscoring Sound and music can be used to underscore a scene, adding tension and atmosphere to a particular moment. For example: A low drone played underneath a scene that foreshadows something bad happening.
- Ambient Sound or 'background' sound. This can be used to help the audience understand the setting or location.
 For example, a scene set in a train station might have the sound of a train engine huffing and the conductors whistle blowing.
- Direction of sound Sound can be used to focus the audience's attention. You could use speakers coming from behind the audience to make them feel like they are part of the action. Or you might have the sound coming from off stage to signify something happening in an area that we as the audience can not see.
- Material = communicates the context of a performance (the period, the year, the time frame)
- **Fit and Condition =** communicates background information, for example if their clothes is obviously too big and has holes in it, it could be a sign that it is a hand-me-down item given by an older sibling, perhaps suggesting they don't have much money.
- Colour = Can foreshadow elements about a character, for example: violent= red, or innocent=white.
- Link to character = Costume can be used to reveal information about the characters in the play. For example, where the characters come from, their background and the surrounding context. It can also be used to communicate status to your audiences showing who has power / money / authority or not.
- Things to describe:
- Hair, makeup, (are integral to costume design special effects can be used to age an actor or complete the look.), shoes, whole outfit, personal props





Overview:

You will have to answer **one question** worth **32 marks** from a choice of **three questions.** These could cover **acting, lighting, sound, costume, set.** You will spend around **40 minutes** answering this questioning the exam

12 marks for DESCRIBING

- Excellent **knowledge and understanding** of how drama and theatre is developed and performed.

- The range of **theatrical skills** referenced is **extensive** and **entirely appropriate** to the focus of the question.

- The description of how skills were used is **exact**, **well-developed** and supported throughout with **precise details**.

20 marks for ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

- Highly developed skills in **identifying and investigating** how successfully theatre-makers **communicated meaning** to an audience (analysis)

- Highly developed skills in assessing the merit of approaches and formulating judgements (evaluation)

- Critical and insightful

- Points fully explored and supported with thorough exemplification.

General Guidance:

- You are writing about the production we saw and how it was brought to life through acting and design NOT the play text written by the playwright

- Refer to the actor's surname when describing what they did. Ensure you also state the character name.

- Use the language of the question and pick out the key words to target your response.

- Focus on the description, analysis and evaluation of what practically happened on stage as this is where marks are awarded for



	Common feature o	faplay: 2
92	<u>Genre:</u>	a category of drama, such as historical drama or musical.
	Dialogue:	what the characters say.
	Monologue:	a long speech spoken by one character.
	<u>Plot:</u>	the main events of the play presented in a particular sequence by the playwright.
	Dramatic climax:	the moment of greatest dramatic tension in a play.
	Resolution:	the end of the plot when the problems of the play are resolved.
	Stage directions:	descriptions of aspects of the play not conveyed by the actos' speeches.
CER MAN	Character:	a person or other being (such as a talking animal) in a play, novel or film.
	Performance style:	the way in which something is performed. A realistic performance has a believable or life- like performance style, or a comedy might feature
2		

Year 10 Component 1:

Section C Live Theatre

Review

Intro:

State the production you saw (title, playwright, theatre company)

Give a brief summary of the

A very brief statement which answers the question and gives a judgement on the production. **Paragraph (X4) Each paragraph MUST contain:**

Description of a moment:

- Brief context for the moment- what was happening / which characters were involved?

- Excellent description of the moment (6-7 elements theatrical skills) explain exactly what happened practically on stage.
- Quotations from the dialogue. Each paragraph should have at least one quotation linked to the description.
- Keep focused on the question (link back to the question)

Analysis of the moment:

- Explain in detail the **meaning** created by the moment, relating to the **audience**. E.g. how it made the audience **understand the character**, **themes or story**, how it created **empathy**, **comedy**, **tension** or communicated a **message** for the audience etc.
- Your personal- how did you: think/feel/react/respond/engage? What meaning was communicated to you at this point. Evaluation of the moment:
- Make a clear judgement on the success/effectiveness of this moment

Conclusion:

BREIF. A couple of sentences summarizing your arguments about the effectiveness of the production. An overview which draws together your examples to offer an overall response to the questions. Ensure it answers the question with a **concluding evaluation on the overall effectiveness**.

Synopsis:

Dr Faustus uses his fabulous intellect to summon the actual devil to grant his every wish! But the devil has a price: it will cost Faustus his soul. Is this the best deal in history – absolutely everything for absolutely nothing? Or... is it perhaps the other way round...?

Things to notice:

The rope is laid out: to define the thrust staging and set up a performance space that separates actor and audience

Original performance conditions:

are described to contextualise the story, first told in 1590. Thrust staging, simple props, live music, everyone is lit equally, outside (imagine that), direct address and a lively crown to watch. Definition of Heaven, Earth and Hell: to clarify the belief system of the 1590 audience.

Hell button: the Devils press the big red button with the word 'HELL' on it. They let out a piercingly high sound of hell, then a low-pitched version followed by the three Devils talking in tongues. Lucifer asks the audience what their version of HELL sounds like. Whatever emerges here is celebrated and encouraged

<u>'Let the acting commence'</u>: the Devils leap into the performance area and play being 'actors' doing the 'acting' and 'warming up'.

Sloth	Sense the weight of the body – heaviness
Greed	Whole body shrinks for all stimuli
Envy	Sideways movements with the body, of the gaze
Anger	Total, spasmodic tension of all nerves and muscles
Lechery	Insistent effort to make physical contact with all the parts of the body
Pride	Area around the moustache, bad smell, haughtiness
Gluttony	Saliva, watering mouth, from head to toe

Year 10 COMPONENT 1: SECTION 3 LIVE THEATRE REVIEW: DR FAUSTUS



Their aims: 'to plant subversive seeds in our audience, to bring chaos wrapped in charm, coated with provocation. We want to encourage our audience to question the actions and choices of the characters on the stage whilst giving them enough space to contemplate themselves in there too. Ultimately our goal is to make a five hundred year old story relevant to a contemporary audience

Pre-show routines:

'MY CARD' – Lucifer offers his business card to the audience and this is repeated throughout the performance. There is a v-effect of time slightly slowing down and an exaggeration of gesture to highlight this moment of choice for the spectator. Who will take the card from this obvious Devil? **TEMPTATION** – the Devils reward and encourage selfish behaviour. Beelzebub offers sweets, Lucifer his card and Mephistopheles a little trophy. How will the audience respond? **INVADE THE AUDIENCE** – sometimes the Devils come and sit with the audience **REMOVAL OF HORNS** – Before the intro, the Devils remove their horns and Lucifer donates his masking-tape beard and moustache disguise to a volunteer. What are Devils supposed to look like?



Influences: Steven Berkoff:

2

4

Theatricality: use of ensemble, mime, physical and vocal exaggeration of characters Creating the physical life of the written text: precision and choreography of movement. Focus on the actor and their abilities to create everything without set, props or technology.

Augusto Boal:

Theatre is a tool for social change. Shifting the passive spectator into a state of action Asking questions without dictating answers Images do not favour the verbally articulate. **Peter Brook:**

Rough theatre 'anti-traditional, anti-promp, anti-pretence. This is the theatre of noise' The invisible network – the connection between each actor and the audience and the story

Commedia Dell'arte:

Strong clear characters – physically and vocally – with defined relationships with the audience Women performing alongside men **Brecht!**



Splendid Productions THE TRAGICAL HISTORY OF DR.FAUSTUS

by Christopher Marlows, adapted

* Splendld

Context:

Historically, in Elizabethan theatre 'good' characters entered and occupied the left hand side of the stage from the audience's point of view (stage right) and 'bad' characters the right (stage left) – in the production the Good Angel, The Pope and the Old Man are positioned on the left and any reference to God and Christ in the text have a focal point on the left above the audience.

The Devil chorus can move anywhere but any mention of evil, hell, the Devil and Lucifer happen about the audience on the right.

Originally written by Christopher Marlowe between 1589-1592.

Marlowe's Dr Faustus was based on a popular German book, Historia von D. Johann Faustus, also known as The Faustbuch, an account of the real life figure dr Johann Faust, detailing his fall from scholarly prowess to necromancy (literally, control of the dead, or spirits) The play itself resembles a traditional morality play.

Marlowe took his character and plot from the Faustbuch, but treated the character of Faustus with a much greater complexity. Instead of simply delighting in the demise of the blasphemous doctor, he gives an insight into the conflicted mind of the character and asks the audience to empathise with the human experience of longing for change but regretting the consequences



Key skills: ensemble, multirolling, mime, sound effects, staging, multiple perspectives, montage, juxtapositioning, exaggeration, repetition, audience interaction, clowning

Quotes:

'you've got to be for certain, and you've got to be for sure of the price you're gonna pay, when you give your soul away... cos you won't get it back no more' 'I sometimes wish I wasn't ad brilliant as I am!' 'I'm so poor I couldn't afford to pay attention!' 'humans. Your brain is the most complex organism in the universe, so let me ask you this. Why are you so useless?'

'want it... have it'



Episodes:

What's wrong with you? What are you going to do about it? Where's mine? Whose side are you on? Where now? What's next? Why can't you have it all? What have you done? What do you need?

What are you afraid of?

Characters: Nick Crosbie as: Dr Faustus, Beelzebub

Tanya Muchanyuka as: Mephistopheles, clown, evil Angle

<u>Grace Goulding as:</u> Lucifer, Wagner, good Angel, the Pope, Old Man

Answering the question

Intro:

State the production you saw (title, playwright, theatre company)

Give a brief summary of the

A very brief statement which answers the question and

gives a judgement on the production.

Paragraph (X4)

Each paragraph MUST contain:

Description of a moment:

- Brief context for the moment– what was happening / which characters were involved?

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- **Quotations** from the dialogue. Each paragraph should have **at least one quotation** linked to the description.

- Keep focused on the question (link back to the question) Analysis of the moment:

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Your personal– how did you: think/feel/react/respond/engage? What meaning was communicated to you at this point.

Evaluation of the moment:

 Make a clear judgement on the success/effectiveness of this moment

Conclusion:

BREIF. A couple of sentences summarizing your arguments about the effectiveness of the production. An overview which draws together your examples to offer an overall response to the questions. Ensure it answers the question with a **concluding evaluation on the overall effectiveness**.

6