



Year 10 – GCSE Drama Knowledge Organiser- Exploring Stimulus



What is a stimulus?

The starting point in a piece of devised drama is known as the stimulus . Describe the stimulus and consider the initial response to it, discussing and then documenting ideas such as: themes , eg romance and rebellion. events in history. plot.

Top tips for exploring Stimulus is to go from initial thoughts and ideas. Get up straight away to act using drama Conventions rather than sitting down and discussing.

Example Stimulus 2023-2024



Drama convention	Definition
Cross cutting	Cutting between scenes , back or forth in time or to a different location.
Split stage	Two scenes on the same stage.
Mark the moment	An important ‘moment’ is directed to stand out- such as with a music / sound cue, change of pace, lighting change , exaggerated action etc. to add significance to a pivotal moment you want the audience to notice.
Still image	The actors freeze in an image that represents something about the characters/ situation on stage.
Thought track	The action on stage freezes and one actor steps out to confide their character’s inner thoughts with the audience.
Narration	An actor has direct address with the audience- commenting on the action or setting the scene . (Think of Blood brothers)
Breaking the Fourth Wall	The imaginary line between actor and audience is blurred as the actors perform in the audience’s space - they can entre through he audience, sit in the audience etc. to engage them.
Rewind	Replaying a significant moment for your audience to view again.

Stimulus 1
Historical event

1 Dolly the sheep:

In 1996 a sheep from Scotland called Dolly made headlines all over the world. Dolly was the first mammal to be cloned using a pioneering procedure called somatic cell transfer. She had three mothers, one provided the egg, another the DNA and the first third always carried her to term. Sadly, Dolly died at the age of six from lung disease that was believed to be connected to her cloning.




Stimulus 2
Instrumental music

2 Snakeblood by Leftfield taken from the soundtrack of 'The Beach'.

Stimulus 5
Person

5 Anna Sorokin – Entrepreneur and convicted fraudster.



Between 2013 to 2017 an ordinary young Russian-born woman from Germany convinced New York socialites, artists, bankers, and hoteliers that she was a German heiress. For four years under the alias Anna Delvey, Anna Sorokin lived out a lavish lifestyle, travelling the world, eating in the best restaurants, and staying in the world's best hotels. By 2019 she was behind bars as a convicted fraudster and known globally as one of the world's most famous con artists.

Stimulus 3
Newspaper article

3 The Greater Manchester street so haunted you had to sign a WAIVER to move there.

On the outskirts of Bolton lies a street with a dark secret. Wingates Grove in Westhoughton was said to be haunted by a poltergeist throughout the 1990s – terrifying all those who lived there. The malevolent spirit was said to have attached itself to a row of council houses and tormented families for years. The hauntings reputedly became so frightening Bolton Council was forced to intervene, but staff couldn't find a rational explanation for what was going on.


Stimulus 7
Poem

7 Come From by Dean Atta.

I come from shepherd's pie and Sunday roast
 dick chicken and stuffed shoe leavers
 I come from travelling through my taste buds but loving where I live
 I come from a home that some would call broken
 I come from D.I.Y. that never got done
 I come from waving the white flag to loneliness
 I come from the rainbow flag and the union jack
 I come from a British passport and an ever-ready suitcase
 I come from jet fuel and fresh coconut water
 I come from crossing oceans to find myself
 I come from deep issues and shallow solutions
 I come from a limited vocabulary but an unrestricted imagination
 I come from a decent education and a manipulative mother
 I come from being given permission to dream but choosing to wake up instead
 I come from wherever I lay my head
 I come from unanswered questions and unread books
 Unread effort and undeveloped egos and brains
 I come from who I trust and who I have left
 I come from last year and last year and I don't notice how I've changed
 I come from looking in the mirror and looking online to find myself
 I come from stories, myths, legends and folk tales
 I come from lullabies and pop songs, Hip Hop and poetry
 I come from grandparents and heady letters
 I come from published words and strangers' smiles
 I come from my own pen but I see people torn apart like paper
 Each a story or poem that never made it into a book.

Stimulus 4
Painting

4 An Effort Most Futile, 2008 by Tan Zi Xi.



Stimulus 8
Prose

8 The Boy Who Steals Houses – An extract from the book by C G Dawes.

Sam leaves his backpack on the kitchen table and moves through the house. He flicks through calendars and notes on a desk, searching for evidence of how long the family will be gone. When they'll come back. He finds a flight itinerary in the rubbish. A week. He could have a week in this house. But just to be sure, he checks: just food dishes? None. Evidence of a house sitter? None. Food in the fridge? Nothing fresh. The house is his. His shoulders relax a fraction. Avery sprawls on a recliner in the lounge, hitting a lever that snaps the footrest up and down with loud clicks. Sam leaves him to it while he decides what to steal. He doesn't always rob the house. Back when he was fourteen and so desperate for a house again, a home, he just broke in to sleep in the beds. Eat the food. Pretended he could keep this. Fantastic idea. Then he started taking keys. To remember each house by. Then he started taking money. Then jewellery, laptops, Cameras. Phones. Hidden credit cards. Avery gets rid of the stuff, courtesy of his snifty friends, but he balks at coming along. Except tonight, apparently. What did you do now, Avery? Sam just sees Avery is last screw-up. He's not ready for another. Sam reaches for his backpack (the collection of keys is one odd ball he keeps to himself because Avery would touch everything and the keys are special. OK? They're his) but Avery appears from behind the pantry door. He holds up a packet and a distinct look of horror crosses his face. 'What the hell,' he says, 'are seaweed crackers?' Sam sighs. 'Are you staying all night?' Avery busts the packet and paws inside. 'These are diseased. Anyway, I want to—' He looks up. 'Oh. Your face.'

Stimulus 6
Photograph

6 Bride crying on the London Underground. Photograph by Scott Levell.



Stimulus 10
Song

10 Slicks + Stones by Nicola Roberts, Dimitri Tikovoi, Maya Von Doll, 2011.

Stimulus 9
Sculpture

9 Bench by Bruce Calvert, 2013–2014.





What the various Stimulus are explained further....

Historic Event- Historical refers to an authentic event that once occurred at some point in history, and is fact and/or evidence-based. For instance, the Diary of Anne Frank is a historical text (while World War II is both a historical and historic event)

Instrumental music- Instrumental music involves just instruments — no singing. This could be from a film score, Classical Music, Electronic dance mix.

News article- News articles are written to inform and educate readers on current affairs/events. They are used to provide readers with information they need/want to know about the world around them.

Painting- Paintings are a form of visual art that captures the expression of ideas and emotions on a two-dimensional surface. Artists use the elements of shape, colours, line, tones, and textures in unique ways to produce paintings that convey sensations of movement, volume, space, and light – traditionally on a flat surface.

Person/people- This could be a famous person in the public eye, a historical figure, a person who had influence on society.

Photograph- This stimulus could show a picture of an event occurring in time that captures an emotion, or educates on something.

Poem- a piece of writing in which the expression of feelings and ideas is given intensity by particular attention to [diction](#) (sometimes involving rhyme), rhythm, and imagery

Prose Prose is ordinary language that follows regular grammatical conventions and does not contain a formal metrical structure. This definition of prose is an example of prose writing, as is most human conversation, textbooks, lectures, novels, short stories, fairy tales, newspaper articles, and essays

Sculpture- sculpture, an artistic form in which hard or plastic materials are worked into three-dimensional art objects. The designs may be embodied in freestanding objects, in reliefs on surfaces, or in environments ranging from tableaux to contexts that envelop the spectator.

Song- A song is a musical composition intended to be performed by the human voice. This is often done at distinct and fixed pitches using patterns of sound and silence. Songs contain various forms, such as those including the repetition and variation of sections.