

GCSE DRAMA: DEVISING

In this unit of work you will be creating your own piece of drama based on a stimulus given to you by the exam board. It is expected that you will create a performance that meets an intention that you set out. Your performance should be between 5 – 15 minutes long. You will also create a portfolio that shows the journey of the creation of your performance.

The Stimulus and your Initial Ideas

The stimulus can be:

historic event, instrumental music, news article, painting, person/people, photograph, poem, prose, sculpture, song.

The best way to explore your stimulus is through **ASKING QUESTIONS**. Don't just rely on what you can see or hear – ask yourself a range of questions to create a theme, issue or story based on your stimulus.

You should show your ideas through a **MINDMAP**. Make sure that you fully link your ideas to the stimulus and explain how you came up with them.

Once you have settled on an idea you need to complete some research to help you develop your knowledge.

You need to begin to start thinking about your **INTENTION** at this stage. What do you want to achieve through your performance?

Research

You now need to complete some detailed research into your chosen stimulus, topic and theme.

You should use a range of sources (not just websites!) to help you with your research.

You should be aiming to find out facts, figures and any other information that may be useful for you.

Books, news articles and interviews are all useful sources to use for this.

Remember to **REFERENCE** and keep a note of where you get your information from.

You now need to explain how your research could be used in your performance. Will it influence a particular character, a particular scene or your acting skills?

Your Initial Idea and Intention

You should now be able to decide on the initial idea that you want to start devising.

You need to state:

- The theme/topic of your idea
- The initial plot you have decided on
- The characters that may feature
 - Any ideas for specific scenes
- Any ideas for dramatic techniques you want to use
- How some of your research may be used

You also need to clearly state your **INTENTION**.

What do you want to achieve?
What do you want the impact on the audience to be?
To educate, to challenge their opinion, to entertain...

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Good news! If you have completed the first three steps this means that you have finished Section 1 of your portfolio! It is now time to start to create your performance as well as continue creating the rest of your portfolio. Use the ideas below to help you.

CREATING YOUR PERFORMANCE

There is **NO RIGHT OR WRONG** when it comes to devising. If you are not happy with something – change and adapt it! If you are not finding your idea interesting, chances are the audience won't be either.

Remember to use a wide range of techniques in your performance to keep it exciting and interesting. Non-naturalistic techniques are great and you should aim to use a selection in your performance.

Direct Address, Mime, Still Image, Physical Theatre, Narration, Choral Speaking, Multi-Role, Split-Role, Placards, Soundscapes, Cross-Cutting...

YOUR ARTISTIC INTENTION SHOULD BE IN YOUR MIND AT ALL TIMES. Are you meeting it? What do you need to adapt in order for you to meet it?

DEVELOPING YOUR PERFORMANCE

You can use strategies such as **HOTSEATING**, **GIVEN CIRCUMSTANCES**, **THE MAGIC IF** and **ROLE ON THE WALL** to help you develop your performance.

You should keep your notes safe for these techniques as you will be able to use these when writing up your portfolio.

KEEPING TRACK OF WHAT YOU HAVE DONE

Your portfolio should show **THE JOURNEY** of the creation and development of your performance.

After each lesson you should aim to write a short lesson log that **ANALYSES** and **EVALUATES** the developments made during that rehearsal.

Once again, keep these safe as they can go into your portfolio.

ANALYSIS

Breaking down and looking at things in great detail. Exactly **WHAT** did you do and **HOW** did you do it?

EVALUATION

Making a judgement. **WHY** did you do that? **WHY** was it good? **WHY** was it unsuccessful?

FINAL STAGES

Once your performance is finished you will perform it in front of an audience.

After the performance you need to write a **SELF EVALUATION** of your performance. This should include any future improvements that you want to make.

You can then put together all your work in your portfolio and submit! Well done – you are finished!