Preparing for the Written Paper

Section A Is Compulsory

Each question 10 marks =40 in total. You should choose a complete unit of work that you have completed which is NOT scripted and practice writing about the following points. The more you practice the more you will remember to add in the exam and the more confident you will feel about what to include.

• 01 Describe
Story, your skill, genre, acting style, target audience, performance space, and any design and technical features. You should be able to get full marks for this question

• 02 Explain
Your research, intentions, role and the nature of the piece. How you put the work together including your role.

• 03 Analyse
The quality of the rehearsal process and the decisions taken to improve the work, using PEE. Describe the problem, the solution and its effectiveness for the audience.

• 04 Evaluate
Your performance: WWW and EBI.

Section B is about a scripted performance and has pairs of questions.

Questions 05 and 06 will be from an actor’s perspective while 07 and 08 will be from a designer or technician’s perspective. You must answer the pair that best suits you.

• For 05 and 06 you combine the above questions, explaining the style and genre of your script, your role and how you created researched and developed the character (voice-volume, accent, pace, timing, emotional range, physical qualities-movement, posture, gait, gesture, facial expression, response and relationship to others on stage) and made him/her become an appropriate role for the overall performance. You will then evaluate your success and use specific examples from the performance to explain your answer- PEE. Explain the acting moment, what you did or didn’t do and why this was or was not successful for your audience.

• For 07 and 08- you use as designer or technician’s perspective explaining style, genre, health and safety, your background research, how your design/technical support suited the performance, describing what you did to enhance the acting (design interpretation, visual impact, scale, shape, colour, texture, materials, technology used, impact, intensity, mood and tone created) . You then evaluate how successful your design or technical work was in creating the right effects for the piece and how this added to the audience’s engagement/understanding of the performance. Also use PEE.

Section C

This section asks you to remember a piece of live theatre you have seen. Do not attempt this section unless your Drama teacher has agreed this with you in advance. It is very difficult to remember a performance when sitting nervously in an exam, however, if you have seen a performance within two weeks proper to the exam and have taken notes on the acting and design and technical features then you may attempt the pairs of questions in this section.