

Modern Prose Drama

GCSE English · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

Plan a closed-book essay: 'How does the writer explore responsibility?'

Step 1 · Thesis

The writer presents responsibility collective duty that the powerful try to avoid.

Step 2 · Three or four moments

Beginning, middle and end, each with a learned quotation from your copy.

Step 3 · Methods

For each: a stage direction, a symbol, dialogue or structure.

Step 4 · Context

Link to the social or political concerns of the time it was written.

Answer: Thesis → three or four moments across the text → methods → context.

Check: Whole-text coverage using learned evidence.

2. Now try one with the steps

Analyse an original stage direction: 'She stands at the window, her back to the room, others laugh.'

Step 1 · Positioning

Step 2 · Contrast

Step 3 · Effect

Step 4 · Purpose

Answer:

3. Practice

Show your working. The marks tell you how much is expected.

1. Why is learning quotations especially important for many modern-text questions? [1]

2. Name three dramatic methods to analyse in a modern play. [2]

3. What is a mouthpiece character? [1]
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4. Why are stage directions strong evidence? [1]
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5. In what year is *An Inspector Calls* set, and in what year was it written? Write both years separated by 'and'. [2]
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6. How should you choose between two essay questions? [1]
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7. What is an allegory? [1]
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8. Why are short, versatile quotations better than long ones for this question? [2]
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9. Analyse this original stage direction: 'The doorbell rings. Nobody moves.' [2]
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10. Explain how a gap between when a play is set and when it is written can create dramatic irony. [2]
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11. Why might a playwright open a play by showing its ending? [2]
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12. Write a thesis for a theme essay on your own modern set text. [2]
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13. Give one way prose methods differ from drama methods. [2]
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14. What is the maximum number of words most quotations in your bank should have? Write the number. [1]

4. Before you hand it in

Arriving with no learned quotations.

Learn 15–25 short, versatile quotations from your own copy.

Ignoring stage directions.

Analyse lighting, setting, movement and tone like any other method.

Using only one date of context.

Know when the text was written and when it is set.

Writing about characters people.

'[Writer] uses [character] to...'