

50 questions – Drama – Component 3 D.N.A Section A

<u>No.</u>	<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
1.	How long is the exam?	One hour 30 minutes
2.	How long should you spend on section A and B?	Section A = 1 hours and 5 minutes Section B – 25 minutes
3.	Who wrote D.N.A?	Dennis Kelly
4.	What is the basic synopsis?	A group of teenagers, who could be described as a 'gang' have accidentally killed one of their classmates. When they realise their mistake, they attempt to cover up the crime, but inadvertently implicate an innocent man. The cover up unites them and brings harmony to their once fractious lives, where is the incentive to put things right?
5.	Where are the three locations that the play is set in?	A street, a field and a wood. The things that unite them is that all locations are outside and isolated. Kelly gives us no specifics regarding their actual whereabouts, thus reminding us that these events could happen anywhere.
6.	Can you name the eleven characters?	Mark, Jan, Leah, Phil, John Tate, Lou, Brian, Cathy, Richard, Danny and Adam However, although the author has given the characters names and gender, he has made a note allowing performers to change names and gender to suit their own preference.
7.	What are the characters social class or standing?	Kelly never eludes to social class throughout the play – However it is evident that there is a hierarchy of power that changes as the play goes on with who is in charge.
8.	Can you describe the group of peers or gang?	They are a group of teenagers who are all the same age. We see individual characters all with varying motivations such as Danny's desire to be a dentist, with others rallying for the power in the gang. However, they treat each other horribly, yet they also rely upon each other entirely. Their lie and deceit unify them further and at points life after the event seems so much better until they have to make choices about what to do after Adam's return.
9.	Which characters pair up?	a) Jan and Mark b) Leah and Phil
10.	Which two characters can be described as narrators or chorus?	Jan and Mark – they throw the audience directly into the action at the beginning of each Act and fill in gaps in audience knowledge of prior events such as the bullying of Adam.
11.	What is a monologue?	A long speech delivered by one actor - can be directed to the audience or to another character – Leah has lots of monologues in DNA.
12.	What are	Rehearsal techniques are exercises which help prepare the actors in the

	rehearsal techniques?	early stages to help them shape / mould their characters and interpretation of these roles.
13.	What is a character's motivation?	Character motivation is the reason behind the characters behaviours or actions within a scene or at any moment.
14.	When discussing use of voice, what does tone of voice refer too?	Tone of voice is its colour or emotional quality. When performing a scene, you must identify your characters emotion at each given moment. You, must make sure that your tone of voice matches your characters mood and what you need to communicate about their feelings.
15.	When discussing use of voice, what does tempo of voice refer too?	Tempo of voice refers to the speed or pace in which an actor delivers their lines. Actors must consider the characters emotion, the content of speech and visualise how the script would be relayed.
16.	When discussing use of voice, what does pitch refer too?	This is how high or low an actor delivers their line, for example a high pitch might be very shrill sounding where as a low pitch would use a deep voice.
17.	Name some physical conventions / techniques / skills or terminology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Body language ▪ Facial expressions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gait ▪ Gestures ▪ Posture ▪ Proxemics ▪ Use of space
18.	What is meant by the performance skill gait?	Gait – Is the manner in which an actor walks. We can describe large strides as an “open gait” or small steps as a “closed gait”.
19.	Define the term proxemics.	Proxemics refers to the positioning on stage of actors and how this relates to their relationships / status.
20.	Name some rehearsal techniques, describe what they are and the effect / impact of using this technique.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emotion memory – recalling a moment from the actor's life where they have experienced something similar to the character and remember how you reacted. They then use this memory to enhance their performance, which helps create a more naturalistic portrayal and rendition. ○ Freezeframes – Create frozen images from moments of the play. This helps give actors space and time to consider their physicality and how space / levels communicate to the audience. ○ Vocal exercises / experimentation – using different emotions for re-enactments of the scene to consider suitability and what works. ○ Off the text improvisation – performers focus on events not depicted in the script and consider moments which they may explore, to help them define characters and their interpretation

		<p>of role, motivation and focus. This gives actors more depth when depicting roles and helps them explore / understand relationships within the text.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hot seating – Actors answers questions in role whilst sitting in the hotseat – allows them to develop a greater understanding of their role, motivations and gives them freedom to explore the character.
21.	What are the themes of the play?	Bullying, gangs, power, violence
22.	What is the playwright's intention for the play?	Dennis Kelly wrote the play and stated that "I began to ask myself whether it was right to sacrifice the individual for the many – this is for me the central question in the play." He also said "It's not about bullying or anything like that, as the real bullying takes place before the play starts. What the characters are struggling with in the play itself are questions of how far they should go to protect the gup – how many wrong things can you do for a greater purpose."
23.	Can you discuss the historical context and what was happening in the world at the time of writing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The War on Terror following terror attacks September 11th 2001 - We can see parallels between the 'for greater god' attitudes which was adopted by coalition forces and the gang. ➤ The ASBO generation – the idea of lawless or feral children ➤ First iPhone released June 2007
24.	What is the genre of the play?	Tragi-comedy – however Kelly stated he didn't like this description. He said "Well I don't think modern plays tend to fall into such easy categories as they used to. Often plays have humour in them but are tragic at the same time. I think there is humour in DNA but if you call it a comedy that is the element that comes out more in our minds. It takes away from the slightly more tragic elements and makes them feel slightly glib – after all, a child dies and that is not funny. Equally if you call it a tragedy, the humour would suffer. I think the nice thing about theatre these days is that plays don't need to be categorised, they can just be..."
25.	What is the structure of the play?	<p>The play has been constructed with a cyclical narrative. The structure repeats itself and there is a pattern to the sequence of different scenes and to the three variant locations. For example, the first scene is always Jan and Mark in A Street, who introduce the problem of that particular section. Then it's Leah and Phil, before moving onto a greater scene with everyone where the problem is solved. This sequence is repeated.</p> <p>The play could also be described as episodic – the action is split into episodes that don't always seem to run on from each other in a logical order or clear timeframe.</p>
26.	When was DNA first staged and where?	Cottesloe Theatre - National Theatre in 2007
27.	Can you describe the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● End on staging ● Original actors were the same age as their characters

	original staging?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characters dressed in school uniform, with small personalised items to reveal something about character • Relied heavily on atmospheric lighting and projections to set the scene, rather than having large items of set • Lighting held a string blue focus • Minimalist production style
28.	Can you define what a theatrical style is?	A theatrical style is the manner in which a storyline or message is conveyed.
29.	Common options of theatrical style are...?	Naturalism, Epic Theatre, Theatre of the oppressed, Physical theatre, Symbolism
30.	Name the 7 main staging types.	Proscenium Arch, End on, Traverse, Thrust, Promenade, Theatre in the Round, Arena Stage
31.	Describe the audience configuration for a proscenium stage?	The most common type of stage. Audience sit and watch the performance through an archway which frames the stage but also provides off stage areas where audience cannot see to help further illusions. This is a great stage for naturalistic performances. You can also project on a back wall.
32.	Describe the audience configuration for an end on stage?	The same audience configuration as proscenium arch, however there is no arch to frame the stage.
33.	Describe the audience configuration for a traverse stage?	This stage can also be known as a 'catwalk' stage. The audience sit on the two longer sides of a stretched rectangle. The shorter ends act as entrances and exits for performers. This stage is best suited for abstract staging concepts. It is good for creating an intense atmosphere as the audience are close to the action.
34.	Describe the audience configuration for a thrust stage?	The stage "thrusts" out into the audience, and their seating is wrapped around 3 out of 4 sides, sometimes creating a horse shoe shape. The back area is good for naturalistic scenes as there are hidden areas to conceal sets and entrances /exits, whereas the central area is intimate with the audience.
35.	Describe the audience configuration for a promenade stage?	A promenade staging has no set location and the audience follow the actors around to certain areas of performance and then move on to the next location.
36.	Describe the audience configuration for a Theatre in the Round stage?	An In the round stage is positioned at the centre of the audience, with spectators sat all around the space. It creates an intimate atmosphere and is good for performances that involve audience interaction. Can also be known as an arena stage, usually the performance space is square /rectangle but the principle that audience surround the stage is the same.
37.	In DNA what	Set is an arrangement of scenery to represent a place -

	might set consist of?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Floor coverings (painted, or actual material such as mud, leaves, grass, branches) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Walls ❖ Furniture ❖ Large scenic elements (trees, stumps, fences, buildings, higher and lower levels, lampposts etc) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Screens for projection
38.	Can you name the 6 main types of lantern used to create light in a theatre?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Profile spotlight – definite sharp-edged beam, can also be used for gobos. ✓ Fresnel Spotlight – soft edged beam, good for smaller areas ✓ Flood light – light for large areas as it literally floods the stage ✓ Strobe light – quick successive flashing light, making action appear ‘jumpy’ ✓ Birdie – a tiny lantern good for up lighting facial features and distorting them creating an eerie atmosphere ✓ Moving head – light which moves across the stage, changes colour and can project images using gobos.
39.	What is a gobo?	A gobo is a metal stencil which is placed over a light to project an image onto the stage or cyclorama (backwall of the stage) They can project things like words or windows, or the image of sunlight, rain etc.
40.	What is a gel?	To change the colour of light projected on stage a gel is placed in front of the light which creates a coloured filter. They come in a great many colours and shades. Colour is explicitly important and needs real consideration; for example, an evening woodland scene might use blues and greens where as a daytime woodland scene would predominantly use greens and yellow.
41.	What is meant by the term intensity when referring to stage lighting?	Intensity of lighting is a direct reference to how bright or dim the light is, which can directly impact on mood / atmosphere on stage.
42.	If sound and music is used correctly, how can it enhance a performance?	Sound and music can add atmosphere, emphasise action happening on stage, help set the scene, indicate a change of time or location or focus attention onto a character.
43.	What is diegetic sound?	Diegetic sound is sound which is heard by the characters on stage and exists within the world of the play. For example, in DNA, in the daytime wood scenes there may be playing the sound of birds, in street scenes the audience may hear the sounds of cars passing by. The characters may not react to these but they are there creating a sense of realism.
44.	What is non diegetic sound?	These are sounds which exist outside the world of the play and the characters don’t appear to hear these. For example, in the scene where Leah confronts Phil and then leaves you may have emotional music playing as she walks away from him for the first time.
45.	What is costume?	Costumes are part of the overall design concept for a production and should be considered carefully. Costume should contribute to the production and should help give the audience clues about characters age,

		class and the time period of the piece, however they must also be practical; for example, in a physical theatre piece an actor needs to be able to move and not be restricted by a tight fitting costume. Simplest definition is that costume refers to what the actors are wearing.
46.	When considering costume, what factors should be considered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Garments -what they are actually wearing top, trousers etc ✚ Material – what the garments are made of. (A silk blouse may suggest higher status for example.) ✚ Condition – A character who was wearing school uniform, with their top button done up, tie done neatly and shirt tucked in would show the audience they are in control and obey rules. A character in a scruffy school uniform with their top button undone and shirt untucked could suggest they are naughty and care little for rules. In the same way that scruffy, ripped clothing might suggest an unkempt character to a clean well turned out role. ✚ Seasonal – Consider the time of day, year and dress characters appropriately. In winter characters might be wearing coats, scarves hats etc, which would help create a cold atmosphere.
47.	You must decide upon what theatrical style you would use & type of staging...please specify?	
48.	What props / set would you use?	
49.	How would you use lighting / sound to enhance performance?	
50.	How would you use costume to enhance performance?	