



NATIONAL 5
DRAMA

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE



60% PRACTICAL- This includes 50% which is the acting/design element and 10% Preparation for Performance.



40% THEORY- 60 mark SQA question paper. This is a 90 minute exam which takes place in the SQA exam diet.



The question paper is made up of two sections:



Section 1- based on a performance you have taken part in throughout the year. (20 marks)



Section 2- response to stimulus. (40 marks)

PRACTICAL

The practical exam will be conducted by an external examiner, usually at the end of March.

The candidates can choose to be assessed as an actor, lighting designer, sound designer, props designer, costume designer or set designer.

They will also complete a Preparation for Performance (PFP).

WHEN DO WE START?

We begin the practical exam preparation before the December break.

The candidates will be given their acting pieces (if they are actors) and will be expected to be off book by the end of January.

Design candidates will also be given the extract they will design for and are expected to conduct initial research by the end of January.

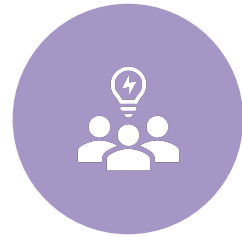
After the December break, we focus on preparing for the practical exam until March.

The exact date of the practical exam is not confirmed until nearer the time.

PREPARATION FOR PERFORMANCE



THE PFP IS A 400-WORD DOCUMENT WHERE CANDIDATES EXPLAIN HOW THEY PREPARED FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE.



IT IS SPLIT INTO THREE MAIN SECTIONS: RESEARCH, INITIAL THOUGHTS AND IDEAS AND DEVELOPMENT OF THOSE IDEAS.



WE USUALLY BEGIN WRITING PFP'S IN JANUARY. THIS IS WORTH 10 MARKS AND 10% OF THEIR TOTAL GRADE.



WE BEGIN WRITING THESE IN CLASS BUT THERE IS AN EXPECTATION THAT CANDIDATES WILL WORK INDEPENDENTLY TO FINISH THESE AT HOME.



THERE WILL BE THREE CLEAR DEADLINES OF DRAFTS THAT I MARK AND GIVE FEEDBACK. IF THESE DEADLINES ARE MISSED, THEY MISS ONE TURN IN FEEDBACK

ACTORS

Candidates will perform in groups of at least 2.

Each performance will last between 10-20 minutes depending on the size of the group.

This will require candidates to learn lines, develop character and attend extra rehearsals.





LIGHTING



Design

BEFORE THE EXAM:
Candidates must design: a minimum of 7 lighting cues and 5 lighting states.



Create

They will create cue sheets, lighting plots and programme the lights into the board.



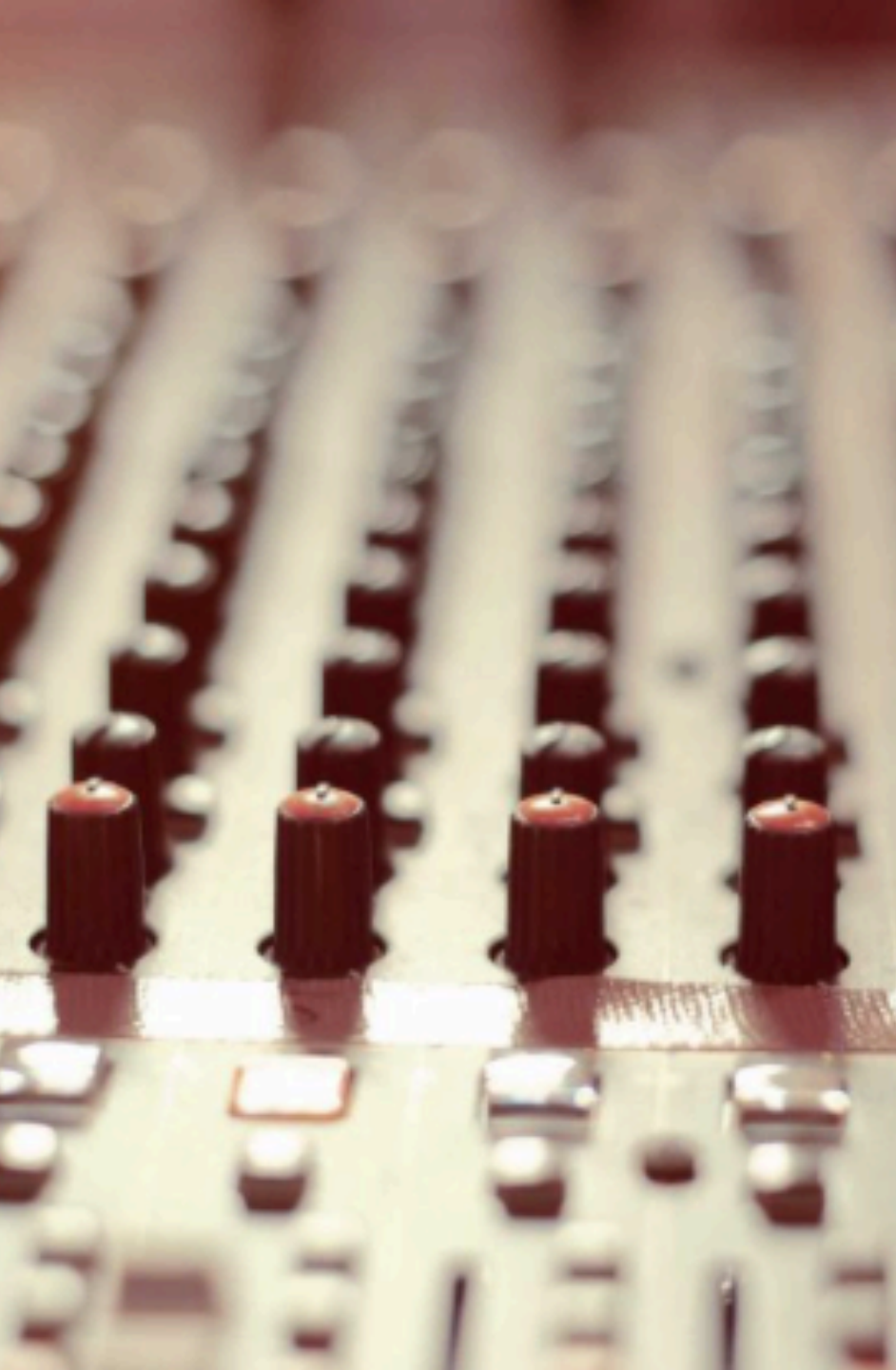
Conduct

ON THE DAY OF THE EXAM: They must conduct pre-show checks to ensure the lights are correct.



Operate

They must operate the lights accurately in accordance to their cue sheet.



SOUND

Design	BEFORE THE EXAM: They must design a minimum of 6 different sound effects and 8 different sound cues.
Source and edit	They must source and edit music/SFX and provide a back-up plan on the day (e.g on a USB)
Create	They must create sound cue sheets showing volume, duration and type of SFX.
Carry out	ON THE DAY OF THE EXAM: They must carry out pre-show checks, ensuring SFX are working and actors know cues.
Operate	They must operate the SFX accurately in accordance to their cue sheet.



PROPS

Have	BEFORE THE EXAM: They must have a minimum of 8 different props from 2 of the 3 areas: personal, pre-set and hand props.
Design and make	They must design and make a fully functional prop for the performance.
Master	They must create a master props list.
Create	They must create a props table with accurate labels.
Make	ON THE DAY OF THE EXAM: They must make sure their actors know where the props are and when to use them.
Set up	They must set up the pre-set props on stage and give actors starting props.
Collect and store	They must collect and store props effectively at the end of the performance.

COSTUME



Design	BEFORE THE EXAM: Costumes must be designed for every character in the performance.
Make/Alter	One costume must be made/altered in accordance with size, style and character requirements.
Create	They must create detailed costume designs and costume list for each character.
Label/Store	Costumes must be labelled and stored effectively.
Give	ON THE DAY OF THE EXAM: They must give the actors their relevant costumes.
Show	They must show the designs to the examiner and talk them through your ideas.
Do	They must do a costume parade before the performance to check that all costumes are accurate in accordance with the designs.



SET

Design

BEFORE THE EXAM: They must create working set designs and elevations (an end on drawing) which are appropriate for the production. This includes new drawings for set changes.

Create

They must create detailed ground plans for each set.

Carry out

ON THE DAY OF THE EXAM: They must carry out pre-show checks to ensure that the set is correct in accordance with the designs.

Creative

The set must be fully functional and reflect the candidates creativity.

THEORY- SECTION 1 (20 MARKS)

01

In section 1 of the question paper, the candidates will answer it as an actor or someone in a production role, ie lighting, sound, costume, set, props- depending on what they chose as their specialism for the practical exam.

02

Section 1 gives them the opportunity to show their evaluative ability and asks candidates to evaluate themselves and others based on a performance done throughout the year.

03

They can choose to write about the performance they did for their practical assessment or another performance they took part in throughout the year.

THEORY- SECTION 2 (40 MARKS)

Section 2 asks candidates to answer questions based on a drama they create as a response to a stimulus. This shows their understanding and creativity.

At the start of section 2 candidates are shown 3 different stimuli and are asked to create a drama from this. The drama must be suitable for a theatrical performance, not TV or film.

All of the questions that follow are based on this drama, for example they may ask about the genre, the style, the structure, a key moment, moments of tension, staging, production skills, voice and movement etc.

A key tip is to always read the questions before deciding on a plot to ensure you can answer all of the questions with your drama.

PRELIMS

WRITTEN PRELIMS

- Candidates will sit TWO full written prelims. This includes Section 1 and Section 2. These will take place during the November/December prelim diet and a second in the March prelim diet. Exact dates TBC.

PRACTICAL PRELIM

- Candidates will sit a recorded practical prelim about 2 weeks prior to their practical exam. This is to ensure that their work is to a similar standard as their practical exam a few weeks later.

STUDY ADVICE

All written work is uploaded to Teams and a lot of revision material can be found there. Paper copies can also be given to pupils if that would support them further.

All past papers can be found on the SQA website. I am happy to mark any additional papers they complete at home.

Learn vocab. This is extremely important and all vocab can be found in the National 5 Revision booklet on Teams.

There are a number of National 5 Drama quizzes on Kahoot as well.