Non-Negotiables: *Billy Elliot – Section C of Component 1*

1. What time period is the play set in?
Answer: 1980s

2. Where is the play set?
Answer: County Durham

3. What is Billy's older brother called and who is he played by?
Answer: Tony Elliot – played by Chris Grahmson

4. What is Billy's dad called and who is he played by?
Answer: Jackie Elliot – played by Deka Walmsley

5. Why are the Elliot household against Billy doing Ballet?
Answer: Jackie and Tony initially believe that **ballet is for girls**, while boxing is a more appropriate activity for boys. In their mining community, traditional ideas about masculinity are very strong. Jackie also worries about other's opinions; he is concerned that Billy may be ridiculed or excluded.

6. What are the struggles which the Elliot's are faced with?

Answer: The family are affected by the **1984–85 Miners' Strike**. Jackie and Tony lose income because they are on strike. Billy's mother has died before the events of the musical, and the family are still grieving her loss.

7. How does Mrs Wilkinson change throughout the play, especially towards Billy?
Answer:

At the Beginning

Initially, Mrs Wilkinson sees Billy as just another child in her dance class.

- She is surprised when he joins the girls' ballet lesson.
- She quickly notices that he has natural talent and enthusiasm.
- She can be quite blunt, sarcastic and impatient with her students, including Billy.

Towards Billy
Her relationship with Billy becomes much warmer and more protective.

- She understands that he is grieving for his mother.
- She provides emotional support as well as dance training.
- She becomes frustrated when Billy does not take opportunities seriously because she genuinely cares about his future.
- She is willing to confront Jackie because she believes Billy deserves a chance to fulfil his potential.

8. Why does Tony behave so aggressively in the play?

Answer:

Frustration over the Miners' Strike
Tony is heavily involved in the strike and is passionate about protecting the miners' jobs. He sees the closure of the mines as a threat to his family's future.
Family Financial Problems
The strike leaves the Elliot family struggling for money.
Grief and Emotional Struggles

Tony is still dealing with the death of his mother.

9. What is meant by the command word 'Evaluation'?

Answer: To give your own personal option. How did that moment make you feel as an audience member?

10. What is meant by the key command word 'analysis'?

Answer: The breaking down of skills and stating how they were used on stage – you must describe what you saw and stay well away from just listing skills.

11. How do you open a main body paragraph?

Answer: use wording from the question

12. What information needs to go into an introduction for Live Theatre?

Answer: The title of the play, that you saw a digital recording of the play -you need to state the date which you saw it as well as when it was originally performed. You need one sentence summing up the plot. Comment briefly on the themes of the piece. Link to the question and provide one sentence of evaluation.

13. What needs to go into a main body paragraph?

Answer:

- → Open with wording from the question
- → Comment on your focused character – *how were they memorable*?
- → Suggest a scene where this has been evident
- → Analyse the skills used to create *this memorable character*
- → Include Evaluative comments throughout
- → Keep using wording from the question

The bits in ***Italics*** are words linked to a specific question. This changes each year and I have used 'memorable character' as this is a past question.

14. How long do you have for a 32 mark response?

Answer: 40 minutes

15. How many questions do you answer for Section C of Component 1?

Answer: One – this always needs to be a question which focuses on the acting.

Non-Negotiables: *Blood Brothers – Section B of Component 1*

1. **What is the timespan of the play?**

Answer: 1950s-1980s

2. Where is the play set?

Answer: Liverpool

3. What different classes are the Johnstone's and Lyons' from?

Answer: Johnstone's = Working class, Lyons' = Middle Class

4. What different opportunities does Edward have that Mickey doesn't because of his position in the class system?

Answer: Edward attends both private school and University. Due to this he is skilled to get a higher paid job than Mickey. Edward's family also has money to support him, which allows his to have far more opportunities in life than Micky has.

5. How does Willy Russell present social class through Mickey and Edward?

Answer: Mickey grows up in a poor working-class family and faces unemployment and hardship. Edward grows up in a wealthy middle-class family with better opportunities. Their contrasting experiences highlight class inequality.

6. How could an actor use their voice to show Mickey's development throughout the play?

Answer: The actor could use a high-energy, playful voice when Mickey is a child and gradually develop a slower, flatter vocal style as he becomes depressed and overwhelmed by adult responsibilities.

7. What movement skills would an actor need when performing Mickey as a seven-year-old child?

Answer: The actor could use energetic movement, quick changes of direction, and playful gestures to suggest the physicality and excitement of childhood.

8. How could costume design help an audience understand the difference between Mickey and Edward?

Answer: Edward could wear neat, expensive-looking clothes, while Mickey could wear simpler, less formal clothing. The contrast would visually communicate their different social backgrounds.

9. How could a director use proxemics in scenes between Mrs Lyons and Mrs Johnstone?

Answer: As Mrs Lyons becomes more suspicious and unstable, the distance between the characters could increase. Alternatively, Mrs Lyons invading Mrs Johnstone's personal space could communicate intimidation and power.

10. What two things do you need to comment on for a 4 mark response?

Answer: Context (background information) and elements of the specified design choice

11. What does the 8 mark response focus on?

Answer: One line of dialogue from a given character and how you would perform this line.

12. What do you need to include when responding to a 12 mark question?
Answer: You need to state how you would perform all the lines in the shaded extract for your given character and also comment on how you would achieve the mood set by the exam board and how you would interact with the other character.

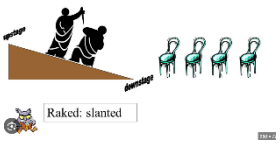
13. What does a 20 mark response focus on?
Answer: The whole extract and other moments in the play

14. How do you select the lines for a 20 mark response?
Answer: you need to select 4 lines from the given character by the exam board. You need to state how you would perform each line in chronological order.

15. How many links to other moments in the play do you need to comment on in a 20 mark response?
Answer: Two.

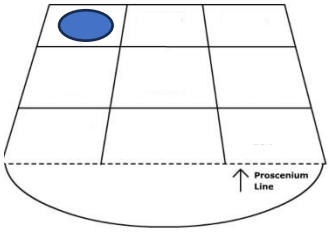
Non-Negotiables: *Section A – Staging positions*

Stages used to be raked so audience could see all of the actors.



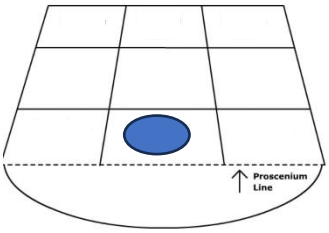
Raked: slanted

2. Identify the area of the stage which is circled.



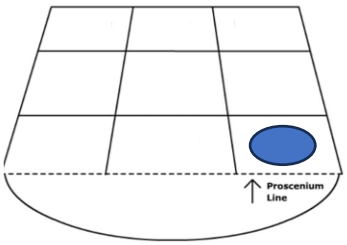
Answer: Upstage Right

3. Identify the area of the stage which is circled.



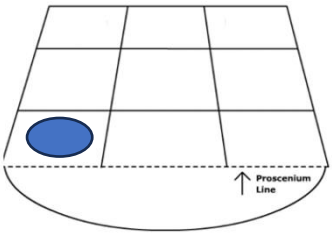
Answer: Downstage centre

4. Identify the area of the stage which is circled.



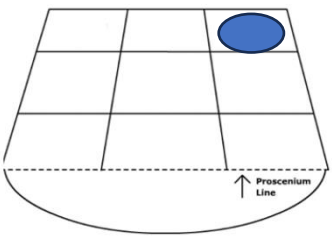
Answer: Downstage left

5. Identify the area of the stage which is circled.



Answer: Downstage right

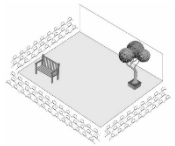
6. Identify the area of the stage which is circled.



Answer: Upstage left

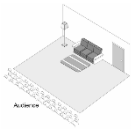
Drama GCSE

7. **State where the tree is positioned on stage using the correct terminology.**



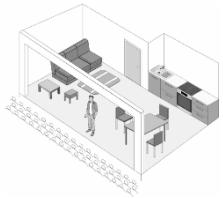
Answer: Upstage left

8. **State where the tree is positioned on stage using the correct terminology.**



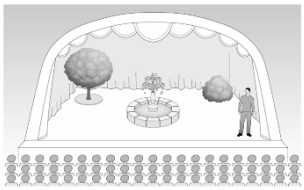
Answer: Upstage centre

9. **State where the three chairs and a table are positioned on stage using the correct terminology.**



Answer: Downstage left

10. **State where the fountain is positioned on stage using the correct terminology.**



Answer: Centre stage

11. **State from whose perspective are staging positions created.**

Answer: The actors.

Non-Negotiables: *Section A – Roles and responsibilities*

1. **Who is responsible for interpreting the script and overseeing the overall production?**
   Answer: Director

2. **Who creates the visual environment in which the performance takes place?**
   Answer: Set Designer



3. **Who is responsible for designing and planning the lighting for a production?**
   Answer: Lighting Designer



4. **Who creates the costumes worn by performers?**
   Answer: Costume Designer



5. **Who designs the sound effects and music used in a performance?**
   Answer: Sound Designer



6. **Who manages props, costumes and practical arrangements backstage during performances?**
   Answer: Stage Manager



7. **Who arranges and teaches movement or dance sequences in a production?**
   Answer: Choreographer

8. **Who designs hairstyles, wigs and make-up for performers?**
   Answer: Hair and Make-up Designer



9. **Who is responsible for finding and organising rehearsal and performance props?**
   Answer: Props Manager

10. **Who works with actors to develop believable characters and performances?**
    Answer: Director

11. **Who decides where furniture, scenery and staging elements will be placed?**
    Answer: Set Designer

12. **Who uses lighting to help create mood and atmosphere?**
    Answer: Lighting Designer

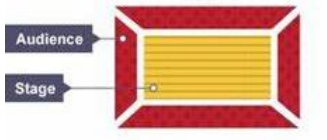
13. **Who selects or creates sound effects to support the action on stage?**
    Answer: Sound Designer

14. **Who ensures costumes suit the time period and style of the production?**
    Answer: Costume Designer

15. **Who communicates the artistic vision of the production to the cast and design team?**
    Answer: Director

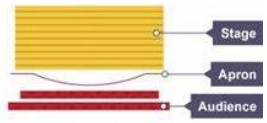
Non-Negotiables: *Section A – Staging positions*

1. **State this staging position?**



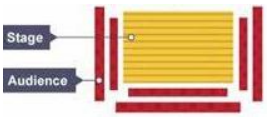
Answer: Theatre in the round/ Arena Staging

2. **State this staging position?**



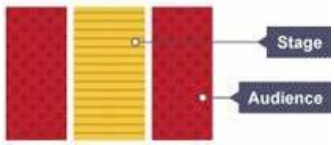
Answer: Proscenium Arch Theatre/ End on

3. **State this staging position?**



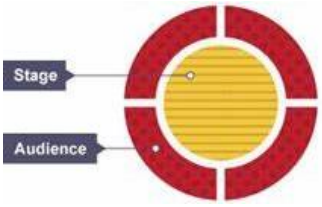
Answer: Thrust Staging

4. **State this staging position?**



Answer: Traverse Staging

5. **State this staging position?**



Answer: Theatre in the round

6. **Identify the staging configuration where audience walk to different locations as part of the performance.**

Answer: Promenade staging

7. **State the performance space which is a flat stage in a blacked-out area.**

Answer: Black box staging

8. **State two pros (Advantages) which end on staging and Proscenium arch staging have.**

Answer: You can use large set pieces; the audience get the same view of the performance despite where they are sitting

9. State two cons (disadvantages) which traverse staging has.

Answer: You can't use large set items, and the actors will always have their backs to some of the audience. Audience members will also have a different view of the performance from where they are sat, compared with others in the audience.

10. State an advantage and disadvantage of using Thrust Staging.

Answer: Advantage – you can still use big set items at the back of the performance area, such as a backdrop. Disadvantage – The actors backs will be towards some audience members for some of the performance.