Year 10 Drama Revision Checklist
Winter Exam – Blood Brothers

Your Drama exam will last **40 minutes** and you will answer TWO questions. You should aim to spend approximately 20 minutes on each question.

The exam will assess your ability to interpret a script as an actor and demonstrate your understanding of costume design.

Use the checklist below to help you prepare.

Question 1: Acting – Voice

You will be given an extract from *Blood Brothers* and asked to explain how you would use your voice when playing one of the characters: **Mickey, Linda or Edward.**

To help prepare for this question, you should:

- Make sure you know all SIX vocal skills and what they mean:
  - **Tone** – the emotion or attitude in your voice (e.g. sarcastic, nervous, angry).
  - **Pitch** – how high or low your voice sounds.
  - **Pace** – how quickly or slowly you speak.
  - **Volume** – how loudly or quietly you speak.
  - **Pause** – a deliberate moment of silence.
  - **Emphasis** – stressing a particular word to make it stand out.
- Practise describing exactly HOW you would use each vocal skill. For example, rather than saying you would speak loudly, explain whether you would gradually increase your volume or suddenly raise your voice.
- Understand the characters of Mickey, Linda and Edward, including their personalities, feelings and relationships.
- Revise the context of *Blood Brothers*, particularly the differences in social class, wealth and upbringing.
- Practise reading extracts and identifying how a character is feeling at different moments.
- Complete practice answers using different vocal skills and specific lines from the script.

To be successful in this question you should:

- Name a suitable vocal skill.
- Identify the exact word, line or moment in the extract where you would use it.
- Explain HOW you would use your voice (be specific).
- Explain WHY this vocal choice is appropriate for the character, considering their feelings, personality and the context of the play.
- Explain what this would communicate to the audience and how it would help them understand the character.

How to structure your answer

Remember: **WHAT? → WHERE? → HOW / WHY? → EFFECT?**

For each point you make, explain:

1. **WHAT?** – Name the vocal skill you would use.
2. **WHERE?** – Identify the exact line or moment in the script.
3. **HOW / WHY?** – Describe precisely how you would use your voice and why this is appropriate for the character.
4. **EFFECT?** – Explain what the audience would understand about the character or situation.

Avoid simply saying "I would shout because Mickey is angry." You need to explain how you would use your voice and why this would be effective.

Question 2: Costume Design

You will be asked to design a costume for ONE of the characters from *Blood Brothers*: **Mickey, Linda or Edward.**
You will be designing the character as a teenager.

To help prepare for this question, you should:

- Revise the context of *Blood Brothers*, including the time period and the differences between the two families' social classes.
- Understand the personalities, backgrounds and lifestyles of Mickey, Linda and Edward as teenagers.
- Familiarise yourself with teenage fashion and clothing from the period in which your character is being portrayed. Think about typical clothing, hairstyles, footwear and accessories.
- Understand how costume can communicate:
    - Age
    - Personality
    - Wealth and social class
    - Lifestyle
    - Time period
    - How a character wants others to see them.
- Practise planning and drawing a full-body costume design for each character.
- Practise adding detailed labels to explain your design choices.

To be successful in this question you should:

- Design a full costume that is appropriate for the character and the time period.
- Include suitable clothing, colours, footwear, hair and accessories.
- Consider the character's personality, background and social class when making your choices.
- Include at least FIVE detailed labels explaining your design.
- Explain WHY you have chosen particular garments, colours, styles and details.
- Explain WHAT these choices communicate to the audience about the character.

What makes a good costume design?

Your drawing does not need to be artistically perfect! The examiner is much more interested in your design ideas and, most importantly, your explanations.
Your costume design should include:

- A full outfit.
- Appropriate colours.
- Footwear.
- Hair and/or accessories.
- At least FIVE detailed labels.

Your labels are extremely important!

Do not simply write what the character is wearing. Explain why you have chosen it and what it tells the audience.

For example:
WEAK LABEL: Old jacket.
BETTER LABEL: Faded, oversized jacket – looks handed down and suggests Mickey's family cannot afford to buy him new clothes.

Try to include labels about:

- Clothing / garments
- Colour
- Style and fit

- Condition
- Footwear
- Hair and accessories

Remember: **CHOICE → REASON → EFFECT**

Final Exam Checklist

Before your exam, make sure you can tick off everything below.

Question 1 – Voice

- I know all SIX vocal skills and what they mean.
- I can describe exactly how to use each vocal skill.
- I understand the characters of Mickey, Linda and Edward.
- I understand the context of the play and how it influences the characters.
- I can identify specific lines and moments in a script extract.
- I can structure an answer using WHAT, WHERE, HOW / WHY and EFFECT.
- I have completed at least one practice answer.

Question 2 – Costume

- I understand the context and time period of the play.
- I know the backgrounds and personalities of all three characters as teenagers.
- I have revised teenage fashion from the period.
- I can plan and draw a full costume design.
- I can choose appropriate garments, colours, styles, footwear and accessories.
- I can write at least FIVE detailed costume labels.
- I can explain what my design choices communicate to the audience.

Remember: In BOTH questions, it is not enough to say WHAT you would do. You must explain WHY you have made that choice and WHAT it communicates to the audience.

Need some extra help? *Your teacher has a Drama revision booklet available which takes you through both exam questions, provides examples and gives you opportunities to practise. Just ask your Drama teacher for a copy!*