



KS4 Drama Knowledge Organiser – Costume Design

Aspects of Costume

Accessories

E.g. A bag, handkerchief, watch, necklace...



Any accessories carried are known as *personal props*.

Make-up

Naturalistic? Over the top?

Use it to show:

- Wounds
- Scars
- Illness
- Age
- Glamour
- Culture



Masks

Designers should consider...

- Whether to use full or half mask
- Will it affect speech or vision of performer?
- Expression on the mask
- Impact



Hair

Think of whether you would use...

- Wigs
- Particular style
- Hair colours
- Facial hair



Remember! Choices you make in any of these areas can be symbolic and tell us information about the characters/setting/time/circumstances.

Colour Symbolism

The colours you use suggest things about the character...

Green Nature, growth, innocence, jealousy...	Yellow Light, joy, energy, youth, warmth, caution...
White Purity, innocence, goodness, faith...	Red Danger, blood, passion, love, fear...
Blue Opportunity, depth, strength, cold, truth, water...	Grey Boring, plain, oppressed, routine, practical...
Pink Love, compassion, femininity, childish...	Brown Earth, nature, comfort, stability...
Black High status, night, evil, mystery, death...	Purple Royalty, high status, power, luxury, magic...

Materials



Metal

Can look effective
Used for accessories
Noisy & heavy
Gets hot
Reflects lights



Lace

Great for enhancing costume (decoration)
Fine detail can't be seen from afar



PVC/Plastic

Lightweight alternative to leather
No excessive noise
Not breathable



Cotton

Easy to dye/alter
Cheap to replace
Rips easily
Takes long to dry



Velvet

Luxurious look
Can be expensive



Leather

Authentic look for specific eras and genres
Difficult to alter
Gets hot under lights



Silk

Soft and comfortable
Looks luxurious
Expensive to clean and maintain



Brocade

Embroidery looks luxurious
Suggests wealth
Can be heavy
Fine detail can't be seen from afar

Context – An Inspector Calls

1910-1912 is known as the *Titanic era*.

End of the Edwardian era, but before the devastation of WW1.

Women's fashion

- Evening dresses made of fine silk, open necklines, short sleeves.
- Popular materials of the time: Silk, lace, brocade, chiffon.
- Thin materials were layered to add a rich effect without bulk.
- Corsets and structured undergarments (bodices) were still popular.
- Dresses were long and columnar (straight)
- Hair was piled on top of head in an updo.
- Wide-brimmed hats were fashionable.

Men's fashion

- Men would wear suits during the day.
- Formal tailcoats for evening.
- In 1912, there was a brief fashion of purple suits.
- Double breasted suits on men who were slender, larger men encouraged to go for striped suits.
- Trench coats and duster coats used for outerwear (Inspector G..)
- Pocket watches fashionable.
- Gentlemen always wore gloves.
- Formal eveningwear consisted of black tailcoat jacket, matching trousers, white waistcoat, black silk top hat, black shoes and white bow tie.
- Hair usually short and slicked back. Facial hair such as moustaches fashionable.



As a designer, you get to make a choice. You can decide to use designs which are true to the period or move away from this. As always, you must have your reasons!