

one full play, two extracts, and the history chapter behind them



The Drama section, four pieces

History of English Drama

the background chapter:
periods and forms of English drama, tested as pure recall

The Rising of the Moon

Lady Gregory's one-act play:
an Irish sergeant torn
between duty and sympathy
for a hunted rebel

A Midsummer Night's Dream (extract)

William Shakespeare, a scene
from the comedy of
mismatched lovers lost in an
enchanted wood

An Enemy of the People (extract)

Henrik Ibsen: a doctor
exposes his town's
contaminated water and pays
for telling the truth

History of English Drama, what it tests



- the only chapter with no extract, so questions here are pure recall, not comprehension
- typically asks to name a period or form and give one defining feature, or a playwright
- answer in the textbook's own terms, it's a memory question, extra detail beyond that wastes time
- this chapter also defines terms (stage direction, soliloquy, aside) the other three pieces use without re-explaining



four periods of English drama in order, each with the years or era it covers

A full one-act play and an extract, what changes

The Rising of the Moon

- read entire, start to finish, so a question can span the whole piece
- the Sergeant's inner conflict and how it resolves are both there to draw on
- character, motive and theme questions can range across the full play

The two extracts

- only the printed portion is given, outside knowledge of the rest of the play doesn't help
- a question stays inside what the extract itself shows: this scene's lines and directions only
- answered with the same Global Understanding and Complex Factual approach as a prose extract

an extract question tests close reading of a slice, the full play tests knowledge of the whole piece