

DRAMA KNOWLEDGE 6 - 10 (End of Year Assessment Test)



Theatre Stages	
Theatre in the Round 	As the name suggests, the audience is seated all around the stage on four sides. A few theatres in the country are permanently arranged like this. The stage itself can be round, square or a rectangle. Sometimes it is referred to as an Arena stage.
Traverse Stage 	A traverse stage is a form of theatrical stage in which the audience is on two sides of the stage, facing towards each other. It is similar to a catwalk runway used in fashion shows.

Rehearsal Techniques	
Status Ranking	A rehearsal technique used to explore the status of characters in a scene. Each performer 'ranks' their roles rise and fall of power/status within a scene assigning a number between one and ten. One is the lowest status and ten the highest. Actors can experiment with the status of the roles within the scene to see how it alters the quality of the drama.
Character Objectives	This is a rehearsal technique where actors first decide on their character's objective or motivation for the whole play (this is called a Super-Objective). They then break the play into a series of smaller objectives that all lead to achieving their overall super-objective. Actors are trained to always express their objective with the use of a verb, eg 'I wish to...' or 'I want to...' or 'I need to...'
Emotion Memory	This is used by actors to find a real past experience where they felt a similar emotion to that demanded by the role they are playing. They then 'borrow' those feelings to bring the role to life.

<u>Colour Symbolism</u> Colour can be used in <u>costumes, set, props and lighting</u> to communicate a deeper meaning to the audience.		<table><tr><td>Brown</td><td>Nature, Honesty, Reliable, Dull</td></tr><tr><td>Grey</td><td>Wisdom, Gloom, Authority, Formality</td></tr><tr><td>White</td><td>Innocence, Hope, Purity, Cleanliness</td></tr><tr><td>Yellow</td><td>Cowardice, Dishonesty, Positivity, Optimism</td></tr><tr><td>Purple</td><td>Luxury, Ambition, Truth, Dignity</td></tr></table>	Brown	Nature, Honesty, Reliable, Dull	Grey	Wisdom, Gloom, Authority, Formality	White	Innocence, Hope, Purity, Cleanliness	Yellow	Cowardice, Dishonesty, Positivity, Optimism	Purple	Luxury, Ambition, Truth, Dignity
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Vocal Skills	
Clarity	Clarity simply means speaking clearly on stage so every member of the audience can hear you. Professional performers will undertake complex vocal warm ups to make sure their articulation is the best it can be.
Accent	Accents are distinctive ways of speaking usually associated with a particular country (e.g. an American accent), region (e.g. a Liverpool or Manchester accent), or social class (e.g. a posh accent).
Emphasis	This is the pressure on individual words that makes them stand out. Emphasis or stress for a particular effect is significant and can change the meaning of a sentence as well as the feeling behind it.

Physical Skills	
Proxemics	This comes from the word Proximity and means the position of people in relation to each other on stage. The distance between characters on stage communicates to the audience how comfortable they are with each other.
Stillness	The power of stillness comes from the interruption of what is natural. We expect movement, so stillness comes as a shock. It makes us look at what is happening, taking the time afforded by the stillness to interpret the action.
Fluency	This is the flow of the drama. It can refer to how smooth actors move around the stage but also how the play is structured . Long and messy scene changes break the fluency of a performance .

	Knowledge of Theatres
Front of House	This is the part of the theatre that is open to the public. It consists of the auditorium (seating area) , box-office (ticket sales) , foyer (Waiting area) , refreshments , merchandise shop and toilets.
Green Room	This is the backstage waiting room for actors in a theatre. This is the room where actors and other performers wait when they are not needed onstage or in their dressing rooms. Strangely they are often NOT green.
Interval	Most plays and musicals over 90 minutes long would have an interval. Intervals are a 20 minute break to allow the audience time to go the toilet, buy food and drink and stretch their legs.
Auditorium	The area within the theatre that accommodates the audience.
Raked Stage	Older theatres used a sloping or Raked Stage to improve the view for the audience. Modern theatres like the Templer Theatre at Teign School use Raked Seating for the same reason.
Wings	The wings are space just off stage. It is used by actors preparing to enter and to store sets for scene changes.
Crossover	The crossover is the area used by performers to travel from stage left to right out of sight of the audience.

	Drama Techniques & Terminology
Anticlimax	As a climax is meant to be where all things come together as a conclusion , an anticlimax is incomplete and therefore can be disappointing or unsatisfying.
Naturalism	A genre that attempts to present events and characters on stage as though they are from real life. Naturalism tries to give the illusion that the characters are actual people in real-life situations using everyday language.
Standing Ovation	A standing ovation is a form of applause where members of a seated audience stand up while applauding. This is only done after extraordinary performances. Standing ovations are considered to be a special honour.
Props	Props is short for properties . Props are any furnishings, set dressings, and all items, large and small, which cannot be classified as scenery, electrics or wardrobe. Props handled by actors are known as hand props, props which are kept in an actor's costume are known as personal props.
Aside	When an actor addresses the audience, while the other characters are unaware that they are doing so.
Break a Leg	In professional theatre there is a superstition in which wishing a person "Good Luck" is considered bad luck. It has now become a tradition for well-wishers to say "Break a Leg" to actors and musicians before they go on stage. In Australia performers say "Chookas" for luck.
Upstaging	Upstaging is when one actor takes attention away from another during a live performance (even if it happens downstage). <i>Example—When an actor steals focus in the background by being over the top or stumbling into the set, all eyes go to him.</i>
Improvisation	Improvisation – To perform quickly in response to something, or to act without previous planning. A distinction is made between spontaneous (making it up as you go along) and prepared improvisation (working within a previously agreed structure of ideas and roles).