

Section C – Live theatre production

THERE WILL BE 3 QUESTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM
IN SECTION C : 11, 12, 13

ONLY CHOOSE THE ACTING ONE!!! (11)

DO NOT ANSWER A QUESTION ON COSTUME,
LIGHTING, SOUND OR SET (12 or 13)

- 32 marks total
- 12 marks for description
- 20 marks for analysis and evaluation

SPEND 45 MINS ON THIS QUESTION!

Section C – Live Theatre production

This may be ONE actor, or more than one actor – Check!

The wording of this WILL change!

Describe how one or more actors in a particular scene or section used their vocal and physical skills to create convincing characters. **Analyse** and **evaluate** how successful they were in communicating their character to the audience.

You should make reference to:

- Use of voice
- Physical skills
- The actors use of space

These bullet points will probably change!

- Vocal skill
- Physical skill
- Interaction with others?

Planning your answer

Read the question carefully

Highlight command word, keywords and phrases in your question paper.

Use the wording from the question and cover ALL of the bullet points stated.

Your answer should include 3 main paragraphs of description, analysis and evaluation.

For the sample question, you can decide whether to focus on one actor in a scene or section, and cover all of the bullet points, or *different* actors for each bullet point.

DESCRIBE

WHAT

Describe **what** the actor did/ what skills they used

ANALYSE

HOW AND WHY

Breakdown **how** they used their skills and explain **why** they did this

EVALUATE

TO WHAT EFFECT?

Judge how successfully they used their skills and **what effect** was created
What was the impact on the audience?

Structuring your answer

INTRODUCTION

title of the play. A brief plot outline and description. Your own opinion of the play overall.
Refer to question and define the scene or section

PARAGRAPH 1 – VOCAL SKILLS

describe
analyse
evaluate

PARAGRAPH 2- PHYSICAL SKILLS

describe
analyse
evaluate

PARAGRAPH 3 – USE OF SPACE

describe
analyse
evaluate

CONCLUSION

Summarise what you have said and link your answer back to the question.

PARAGRAPH 4 – VOCAL SKILLS

describe
analyse
evaluate

PARAGRAPH 5- PHYSICAL SKILLS

describe
analyse
evaluate

PARAGRAPH 6 – USE OF SPACE

describe
analyse
evaluate

You can repeat this for another actor if you wish – or answer bullet points on different actors.*



Structuring your answer

Introduction

title of the play (and any other details)

A brief plot outline and description.

Your own opinion of the play overall

Refer to question and Define the section / actor(s)

I watched a production of Johnathon Harvey's 2011 play 'Girls like that' at LIPA, performed by 3rd year acting students. The play is an ensemble play exploring the pressures on young people today in the wake of advancing technology. When a naked photograph of schoolgirl Scarlett goes viral, rumours spread across and her reputation becomes toxic, threatening to shatter the fragile unity of the girls she has grown up with. This was a brilliant play, which explored serious contemporary themes and issues, in a sometimes hilarious way. Overall, throughout the performance, I feel that (the actor) used an extensive range of vocal and physical skills to communicate effective characters to the audience convincingly. An example of this was during (scene, moment, whole play?)

Paragraph 1 - vocal skills (accent, tone, volume, pace, pitch, emphasis)

DESCRIBE : What

During the flashback scene at the start of the play, the girls have regressed to their first day at primary school. The actor Emma Kniebe is narrating in role, comparing the chickens on her farm to the cruel behaviour of girls and their 'pecking order'. She used her vocal skills effectively to portray the role of an 'uptight, geeky, middle class, 5 year old girl.

ANALYSE :How and why

Kniebe used a middle class British accent and spoke with a high pitch to indicate her status and age. When she said the line, 'I live on a farm. We have chickens.' She emphasised the words 'I' and 'we' to communicate her pride, status and childish manner. This communicated to the audience her spoilt nature. When she starts to describe how the hens battle it out and begin to peck at each others feathers, her volume decreases and she speaks in a hushed voice, building the tension. She spoke slowly and over exaggerated her words when describing the actions of the hens, her tone serious to suggest her fear of such a fate.

EVALUATE :To what effect

Kiebe's use of vocal skills were very successful and helped us to understand her character and personality within the play. She used her voice effectively to communicate her age and status within the scene, whilst introducing one of the recurring themes within the play.

Paragraph 2 – Physical Skills (facial expression, posture, gesture, movement, interaction)

DESCRIBE : What

In addition to her use of voice, Kniebe used her physical skills effectively to portray her character's personality and age, during the scene about the hens.

ANALYSE :How and why

As Kniebe describes the hens pulling each others feathers out she begins to clutch fiercely on her skirt. She makes eye contact with the audience, her facial expression locked in a wide eyed, shocked glare, communicating her horror, or intrigue. Kniebe moved around the stage in quick, sharp movements, exaggerating her gestures, such as pushing her glasses up onto her nose and wringing her hands together frequently. This showed the audience that she was often anxious and uptight. Her posture was tall and upright to communicate her status and personality.

EVALUATE :To what effect

I think Kniebe used her physical skills brilliantly to portray her character's age and personality, and to engage the audience. I think she used her over exgerated physical skills effectively to establish a comical aspect to her character.

Paragraph 3 – Use of Space (positioning, interaction with actors/ set/ audience)

DESCRIBE : What

Kniebe and the other actors used the performance space effectively to create convincing characters, and establish 'the pecking order' in this scene

ANALYSE :How and why

Throughout the scene, Kniebe is stood centre stage on a raised, circular rostra. As she begins to describe the pecking order, the other actors slowly take their positions one by one, upon the rostra, creating a circle before moving to facing both sides of the audience from the traverse stage. This helped to establish their status in the play. The actors also used the space in this scene to establish a quick transition to 'circle time' as they all sat on the edge of the rostra, arms entwined.

EVALUATE :To what effect

The actors used the performance space in an innovative and creative way to communicate their characters status to the audience in this scene.