

Interpreting Theatre – UNIT 3 – WJEC GCSE DRAMA SECTION B - 15 marks

Question Focus on Acting



! Remember you are:

- evaluating and analysing a live theatre production
- spending about 25 minutes answering this section
- choosing one of the two options
- naming the performance, the company and the location.

Remember: The questions can vary and focus on the actor's use of PHYSICAL SKILLS, VOCAL SKILLS, INTERACTION, INTERPRETATION OF CHARACTER.

Important Things!

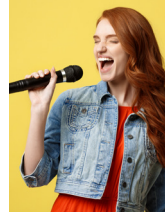
! Remember: Please read the question carefully, use the bullet points to help you. Give your personal OPINION as a member of the audience.



PHYSICAL SKILLS:

You will need to specify how the actor interprets the character through his use of gestures, posture, walk, physical responses, facial expressions, position on the stage, special territories, stillness, use of space, set and personal equipment and props. To begin with, briefly mention the character, background, age, importance and social status because all of this is dependent on the actor's interpretation of the role he/she portrays. You can then specify and give examples of how the actor succeeded in physically conveying the character in a scene OR two scenes of the production in question (read the question carefully). You can give examples from the beginning, middle and end of the scene in order to organise the answer.

! Remember to use plenty of terminology.



VOCAL SKILLS:

You will need to specify how the actor interprets the character through their use of tone and vocal tempo, perhaps accent, pitch, emphasis on words, use of pauses to create tension, pronunciation and constructiveness. Choose a specific scene or two, and discuss how the actor used the skills to create and enrich the role. You can refer to the character's background, age, status and motivation in this particular part. You can refer to the beginning, middle and end of a scene of your choice and elaborate on the skills associated with the voice.

! Remember to use plenty of terminology.



INTERACTION SKILLS:

You will need to specify how the actor responds to the rest of the actors on stage, the distance and proximity between them and what was the significance of this. Was the actor moving deliberately to suggest a feeling or emotion? The actor may be using a series of facial gestures and responses, e.g. folded arms, eyes rolling, scrunched face, walking back and forth, pointing or back turned. Remember that the impact of this on the rest of the actors needs to be explained and how this succeeded in causing tension, a feeling or an emotion. What was the impact of this on the audience? Decide on specific examples from a scene or two scenes - once again, it depends on the question.



CHARACTER INTERPRETATION:

The character (or characters) in question will need to be discussed in terms of age, social class, intent and motivation, background and their relationship with the rest of the characters in the scene. Explain how the actor used the physical skills to interpret the role, then the vocal skills and interaction skills. Stick to the order of referring to the beginning, middle and end of a scene or scenes to organise your answer.

! Remember to use the appropriate terms.