

Drama – Component 3 The It -Section A

No.	Question	Answer
1.	How long is the exam?	One hour 30 minutes
2.	How long should you spend on sections?	Section A = 1 hours and 5 minutes Section B – 25 minutes
3.	Who wrote the It?	Vivienne Franzmann
4.	What is the basic synopsis?	The It is a play about a teenage girl who has something growing inside her. She doesn't know what it is, but she knows its not a baby. It expands. It has claws.no one must know about it. But she can't contain it forever. Sooner or later something's got to give.
5.	How many sections are there in The It? (Scenes)	18 sections
6.	Can you name the main characters?	Grace Freemantle, Chorus, Students, Mum, Dad, Sam, Barrister, Ms Jarvis, Newsreader, Local Mother and supply teacher
7.	What are the characters social class?	Typical middle-class teenagers in a comprehensive school
8.	What is 'character interaction'?	The ways in which characters communicate or interact with each other. The action or relationship among two or more characters.
9.	What is a metaphor?	A metaphor is where we see a symbolic level of meaning, where the characters and audience see things regarded as representative or symbolic of something else, religious figures, or philosophical viewpoints. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The concept of the It is a metaphor for Grace's anxiety.
10.	What is a monologue?	A long speech delivered by one actor - can be directed to the audience or to another character –
11.	What are rehearsal techniques?	Rehearsal techniques are exercises which help prepare the actors in the early stages to help them shape / mould their characters and interpretation of these roles.
12.	Name some rehearsal techniques, describe what they are and the effect / impact of using this technique.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emotion memory – recalling a moment from the actor's life where they have experienced something similar to the character and remember how you reacted. They then use this memory to enhance their performance, which helps create a more naturalistic portrayal and rendition. ○ Vocal exercises / experimentation – using different emotions for re-enactments of the scene to consider suitability and what works. ○ Off the text improvisation – performers focus on events not depicted in the script and consider moments which they may explore, to help them define characters and their interpretation of role, motivation and focus. This gives actors more depth when depicting roles and helps them explore / understand relationships within the text. ○ Hot seating – Actors answers questions in role whilst sitting int the hotseat – allows them to develop a greater understanding of their role, motivations and gives them freedom to explore the character.
13.	What is a character's motivation?	Character motivation is the reason behind the characters behaviours or actions within a scene or at any moment.
14.	When discussing use of voice, what does tone of voice refer too?	Tone of voice is its colour or emotional quality. When performing a scene, you must identify your characters emotion at each given moment. You must make sure that your tone of voice matches your characters mood and what you need to communicate about their feelings.
15.	What does 'tempo' mean?	Tempo of voice refers to the speed or pace in which an actor delivers their lines.

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16.	When does pitch refer too?	This is how high or low an actor delivers their line, for example a high pitch might be very shrill sounding where as a low pitch would use a deep voice.
17.	Name some physical techniques / skills.	Body language, Facial expressions, Gait, Gestures, Posture, Proxemics and Use of space
18.	What is meant by the performance skill gait?	Gait – Is the manner in which an actor walks.
19.	Define the term proxemics.	Proxemics refers to the positioning on stage of actors and how this relates to their relationships / status.
20.	What are the themes of the play?	Family, mental health, childhood, adolescence, self esteem
21.	What is the playwright's intention?	Franzmann wanted to raise awareness of mental health issues in young people and the impact it has on all involved –
22.	Can you discuss the historical context and what was happening in the world at the time of writing?	The IT was published in 2020 as part of Connections, the National Theatre's annual youth festival. However, as the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the postponement of a great number of productions, it was included in the 2021 cycle with some amendments. The play's themes are relevant in contemporary society; many young people are dealing with mental health issues. In 2021, the Mental Health Foundation found that around one in six children are affected by mental health problems. This includes depression, anxiety and conduct disorder (a type of behavioural problem that is often a direct response to what is happening in someone's life). Alarmingly, however, 75% of children and young people who experience a mental health problem are not getting the help they need. Grace's story shows the consequences of trying to battle mental health issues alone, and Student 22's response at the end of the play reiterates that many young people are experiencing the exact same issues:
23.	What is the genre of the play?	<p>Story theatre - The structure is how the plot or story is laid out, including a beginning, middle and end.</p> <p>The structure of The IT could be described as story theatre; characters stand back and comment on the action as well as take part. They share their thoughts and feelings, comment on events, provide transitional information from one episode to another and help to cover the expository material handled in the narrative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Story theatre tends to use very little set and few props (these will be carefully selected and designed). The action can proceed quickly without elaborate set changes. • Story theatre is highly episodic, with the action taking place in a variety of places in the course of many scenes. Each episode gives the audience an insight into characters and events that have played a significant part in Grace's life and how they contributed in helping to create the 'It'. • The episodic structure allows different events to be viewed by the audience, e.g. scenes in school and the reaction towards Grace from her peers. • The structure is also non-linear. The play moves back and forth, focusing on a number of key events, e.g. the news item on pages 29-31 that eventually contribute and culminate with Grace's breakdown at the end of the play. • The fragmented structure allows two stories to be told. Grace's story, which is told by her, and other stories and viewpoints, which are told by the rest of the characters. This allows two different perspectives to be seen and the audience is left to decide whose version of events they trust.

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24.	What is the structure of the play?	Episodic
25.	When was The It first staged and where?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The IT was published in 2020 as part of Connections, the National Theatre’s annual youth festival. However, as the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the postponement of a great number of productions. It was performed on the 20th March 2020 at the Sherman Theatre, Cardiff.
26.	Describe the original staging?	It was performed end on
27.	Can you define what a theatrical style is?	A theatrical style is the manner in which a storyline or message is conveyed.
28.	Common options of theatrical style are...?	Naturalism, Epic Theatre, Theatre of the oppressed, Physical theatre, Symbolism
29.	What theatrical styles are seen The It?	Direct to camera documentary, non-naturalistic techniques such as narration and storytelling, epic theatre as well as moments and elements of realism.
30.	Name the 7 main staging types.	Proscenium Arch, End on, Traverse, Thrust, Promenade, Theatre in the Round, Arena Stage
31.	Describe a proscenium stage?	The most common type of stage. Audience sit and watch the performance through an archway which frames the stage but also provides off stage areas where audience cannot see to help further illusions.
32.	Describe an end on stage?	The same audience configuration as proscenium arch, however there is no arch to frame the stage.
33.	Describe a traverse stage?	This stage can also be known as a ‘catwalk’ stage. The audience sit on the two longer sides of a stretched rectangle.
34.	Describe a thrust stage?	The stage “thrusts” out into the audience, and their seating is wrapped around 3 out of 4 sides, sometimes creating a horse shoe shape.
35.	Describe promenade staging?	A promenade staging has no set location and the audience follow the actors around to certain areas of performance and then move on to the next location.
36.	Describe a Theatre in the Round stage?	An In the round stage is positioned at the centre of the audience, with spectators sat all around the space.
37.	What are design elements?	The areas of technical theatre are scenery, lighting, properties, costuming, and sound.
38.	In The It what might set consist of?	Originally staged using minimalistic but significant pieces of set – desks, Grace’s safe space bean bag and a small table, symbolic staging ladders, blocks?
39.	Can you name the 6 main types of lantern used to create light in a theatre?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Profile spotlight – definite sharp-edged beam, can also be used for gobos. ✓ Fresnel Spotlight – soft edged beam, good for smaller areas ✓ Flood light – light for large areas as it literally floods the stage ✓ Strobe light – quick successive flashing light, making action appear ‘jumpy’ ✓ Birdie – a tiny lantern good for up lighting facial features and distorting them creating an eerie atmosphere ✓ Moving head – light which moves across the stage, changes colour and can project images using gobos.
40.	What is a gobo?	A gobo is a metal stencil which is placed over a light to project an image onto the stage or cyclorama (back wall of the stage)
41.	What is a gel?	To change the colour of light projected on stage a gel is placed in front of the light which creates a coloured filter.

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42.	What is meant by the term intensity?	Intensity of lighting is a direct reference to how bright or dim the light is.
43.	How can sound and music enhance a performance?	Sound and music can add atmosphere, emphasise action happening on stage, and help set the scene, indicate a change of time or location or focus attention onto a character.
44.	What is diegetic sound?	Diegetic sound is sound which is heard by the characters on stage and exists within the world of the play. For example, a play set in the woods may have the sound of birds, in street scenes the audience may hear the sounds of cars passing by. The characters may not react to these but they are there creating a sense of realism.
45.	What is non-diegetic sound?	These are sounds which exist outside the world of the play and the characters don't appear to hear these. For example, in the scene where Catherine dies you may have emotional music playing as she fades.
46.	What is costume?	Costume refers to what the actors are wearing.
47.	What theatrical style would you use & which type of staging?	You know that the play is written as a camera to documentary drama as it tells the story in a documentary style– In your opinion which type of staging would be effective? Theatre in the round, end on, thrust, traverse, arena, promenade?
48.	What props / costume and set would you use?	This question wants you to think about what you would like the actors to wear and what would be on stage. These technical elements can really enhance a play.
49.	What lighting / sound would you use?	Lighting and sound are key technical elements in a performance which really enhance mood and atmosphere. This question asks you to consider your ideas for type of light, colours, intensity in order to portray a fully rounded production. What additional thoughts do you have for sound? In the original production the cast were responsible for choosing the music and opted for largely contemporary music ranging from Billie Eilish to Goldfrapp.
50.	What does it mean to respond to a performance?	If a question asks you to give your response to a performance it is asking you to give your opinion and justify your reasons for this backed up by explanation discussing key moments.