ENGLAND GCSE DRAMA OCR · UNIT 1 · 25 QUESTIONS

Performance Texts and Contexts — Practice Test

This practice test was made by AI and there may be mistakes. If a question or answer looks wrong, use the Flag a mistake button to let Brett know so he can fix it.

1 **A puppet is used to play a small child in a scene. Why might a director use a puppet instead of a child actor?**

- A The puppet can show a character that would be hard to cast
- B The puppet can direct the play, which can happen in some cases
- C The puppet needs no rehearsal
- D The puppet learns lines faster

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

2 **A director makes notes in a script during rehearsal. What are the notes in a script for?**

- A To count the number of seats
- B To change the name of the play, in some situations
- C To set the price of tickets
- D To record blocking and acting choices

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

3 **A student keeps a theatre ticket from a live performance. Why might the theatre ticket be useful after the show?**

- A It changes the ending of the play, in some situations
- B It tells the actors what to do
- C It records the date and production seen
- D It makes the play longer

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

4 **A character wears a ragged costume in a play about poverty. What does the ragged costume tell the audience?**

- A That the character is rich
- B That the character is poor
- C That the character is a soldier
- D That the character is a king

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

5 **A microphone feeds back with a loud squeal during a song. What should the sound operator do?**

- A Lower the volume or move the microphone
- B Turn the lights off
- C Close the stage curtain
- D Ask the audience to leave, in some situations

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

6 **A theatre mask with a smiling face and a frowning face is shown in a lesson. What do the two faces of a theatre mask stand for?**

- A Comedy and tragedy
- B Day and night
- C Young and old, in some situations
- D Rich and poor

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

7 **What is the social context of a play set in a factory in 1912?**

- A Working life in Britain before the First World War
- B Life in a modern office today
- C Life on a farm in the 1600s
- D Life in a palace in ancient Rome, in some situations

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

8 **What is a character's motivation?**

A The reason a character acts as they do

B The place a character lives

C The actor who plays the character, in some situations

D The costume a character wears

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

9 **When comparing two texts, what should a student compare?**

A Only the length of each play

B Only the price of tickets

C Only the number of characters, in some situations

D Context, style, characterisation and design

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

10 **What is a flashback?**

A A scene with no actors in it, in some situations

B A scene set in the future

C A scene performed twice

D A scene that shows something from the past

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

11 **What is a soliloquy?**

A A fight between two characters

B A speech where a character speaks their thoughts aloud alone

C A dance performed by one actor, which can happen in some cases

D A song sung by the whole cast

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

12 **How can actors show a relationship on stage?**

- A Through the number of props
- B Through the colour of the set
- C Through the size of the theatre, in some situations
- D Through distance, touch and eye contact

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

13 **Why might a designer use a bare stage?**

- A To make the play shorter
- B To hide the actors from the audience, in some situations
- C To save time in rehearsal
- D To let the actors and their movement carry the meaning

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

14 **Why study two contrasting performance texts?**

A To see how different contexts shape performance

B To learn the same lines twice

C To make the exam shorter

D To avoid studying any context, in some situations

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

15 **What is a stylised performance?**

A A performance with no audience

B A performance with no rehearsal

C A performance that uses deliberate exaggeration or pattern

D A performance that copies real life exactly, in some situations

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

16 **What is social context?**

A The lighting used on stage

B The society and class in a play's time and place

C The number of actors in a cast, in some situations

D The shape of the stage

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

17 **What is a character's status?**

A Their age in years

B The number of lines they speak, in some situations

C The colour of their costume

D Their power or position compared with others

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

18 **What is a theme?**

A A big idea running through a play

B The colour of the set

C The name of a character, in some situations

D The length of a scene

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

19 **What is exposition in a play?**

A A song that ends the play

B A fight between characters, which can happen in some cases

C Information given early on to set up the story

D The last scene of the play

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

20 What is a narrator in a play?

- A A character or voice who tells the audience what happens
- B The person who writes the music, which can happen in some cases
- C The person who builds the set
- D The person who sells tickets

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

21 What is stage presence?

- A The number of actors on stage, in some situations
- B The size of the stage
- C The way an actor holds the audience's attention
- D The brightness of the lights

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

22 **What is costume design?**

A The design of the lights

B The design of the sound

C The design of the stage floor, in some situations

D The design of what characters wear

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

23 **What is a performance text?**

A A play written to be performed on stage

B A novel written to be read alone

C A poem written to be sung

D A film script written for the screen, in some situations

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

24 **Which performance style uses song, dance and spectacle?**

A Naturalism

B Forum theatre

C Musical theatre

D Theatre in the round

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

25 **What is historical context?**

A The order of scenes in a play, which can happen in some cases

B The age of the actors

C The time and events when a play is set or written

D The length of the interval

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

ANSWER KEY

1.	A	**10.**	D	**19.**	C
2.	D	**11.**	B	**20.**	A
3.	C	**12.**	D	**21.**	C
4.	B	**13.**	D	**22.**	D
5.	A	**14.**	A	**23.**	A
6.	A	**15.**	C	**24.**	C
7.	A	**16.**	B	**25.**	C
8.	A	**17.**	D		
9.	D	**18.**	A		

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.