

## Knowledge organiser – Drama – Component 3 Hard to Swallow -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 HTS?	Mark Wheeler
4.	What is the basic synopsis?	Hard to Swallow is about Catherine's uneven battle with her illness and her family's difficulties in coping with all that anorexia means.
5.	How many sections are there in HTS? (Scenes)	14 sections
6.	Can you name the main characters?	Catherine Dunbar, John Dunbar, Maureen Dunbar, Simon Dunbar, Anna Dunbar, Dr Wynne, Dr Clegg
7.	What are the characters social class?	Upper middle class, clearly demonstrated in section 2 –
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 an allegory?	An allegory is a story with a symbolic level of meaning, where the characters and setting represent, well, other things, like political systems, religious figures, or philosophical viewpoints. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sections 1 &amp; 14 use an allegory to demonstrate Catherine / baby goat's inability to cross the bridge / defeat anorexia.</li> </ul>
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"> <li>○ 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.</li> <li>○ Vocal exercises / experimentation – using different emotions for re-enactments of the scene to consider suitability and what works.</li> <li>○ 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.</li> <li>○ Hot seating – Actors answers questions in role whilst sitting in the hotseat – allows them to develop a greater understanding of their role, motivations and gives them freedom to explore the character.</li> </ul>

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.
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, Eating Disorders, Control, Sickness, Conflict, Mental Health, Fear, Nurturing and Motherhood
21.	What is the playwright's intention?	Wheeller wanted to raise awareness of anorexia 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?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Margaret Thatcher was Prime Minister and celebrates 10 years in role this year</li> <li>• Inflation the highest for seven years</li> <li>• Low unemployment –</li> <li>• Transport industry strikes including ambulance drivers</li> <li>• Housing bubble burst with prices in London and South East down by 10 % - July - Fears of a property market downturn are heightened when it is reported that many homeowners looking to move are cutting the asking price of their homes by up to 20% in an attempt to speed up the sale of their property, following the property boom of the last 3 years where the price of many homes doubled at the very least. 29 September – House prices in London have fallen by 3.8% since May, and are now 16% lower than they were at the height of the property boom last year.</li> </ul>
23.	What is the genre of the play?	Documentary theatre - is theatre that is based on a true event but can also be slightly altered for dramatic purposes.
24.	What is the structure of the play?	Billy Goat scenes act as book ends for the play. The structure of the play is chronological thereafter.
25.	When was HTS first staged and where?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hard to Swallow was first written by Mark Wheeler in 1989. The play was performed primarily as a touring production but was also presented at the Olivier Theatre in 1989.</li> </ul>
26.	Describe the original staging?	It was usually 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 in HTS?	Naturalistic scenes, abstract stylised scenes, Physical theatre
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 HTS what might set consist of?	Table and chairs, dressing table, full length mirror and possibly scales.
39.	Can you name the 6 main types of lantern used to create light in a theatre?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Profile spotlight – definite sharp-edged beam, can also be used for gobos.</li> <li>✓ Fresnel Spotlight – soft edged beam, good for smaller areas</li> <li>✓ Flood light – light for large areas as it literally floods the stage</li> <li>✓ Strobe light – quick successive flashing light, making action appear 'jumpy'</li> <li>✓ Birdie – a tiny lantern good for up lighting facial features and distorting them creating an eerie atmosphere</li> <li>✓ Moving head – light which moves across the stage, changes colour and can project images using gobos.</li> </ul>
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.
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 documentary drama as it focuses on a true event with minor plot changes for dramatic effect – Mark Wheeler recommends acting certain scenes in key styles but which do you think works and why? Does the blend of styles work or would you prefer to apply one style of performance?  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? Mark Wheeler makes suggestions, but what do you think? Would you pick music that is time specific 1970's/1080's or more atmospheric?
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.