

Section 3 - Live Theatre Analysis and Evaluation

1. READ THE QUESTION!
2. READ THE QUESTION!
3. DECIDE ON WHICH 3 SCENES/MOMENTS YOU WILL FOCUS ON!
4. ANSWER THE QUESTION!
5. Introduce the play – I saw a production of XXXX performed by XXX Theatre Company.
6. Briefly explain what the play is about.
7. Briefly explain what the style of the play is.
8. Use the actors' real names!

E.g. I saw a digital production of *Metamorphosis* performed by *Splendid Theatre Company*. It is an adaptation of a short story by *Franz Kafka* about a man who wakes up one day to find he has turned into an enormous beetle. The story is a surreal and nightmarish journey into one man's emotional and physical breakdown, and the style of the play reflected this. The play used a broad range of stylised and non-naturalistic techniques to tell the unusual tale.

Key Scenes/Moments

- Identify the 3 moments or scenes you will write about.
- Remember to introduce the play, the scene(s) and the actor(s), read the question carefully and be **FLEXIBLE** ! The question you will have to answer will not be the same as the one in the exemplar paper – there will definitely be one on design (either set, costume, sound or lighting) and one on acting. Be prepared to adapt what you are going to write about so that you answer the question.
- Make sure you show you understand **WHY** choices were made and whether they were effective or not. It is not enough to just describe and analyse, you must also evaluate the overall impact. Show your knowledge of the whole play as well as the more specific sections.
- **DON'T FORGET TO USE DRAMA LANGUAGE WHENEVER YOU CAN!**

DESCRIBE WHAT, ANALYSE HOW AND WHY, EVALUATE IF IT'S EFFECTIVE OR NOT...

E.G.)'Describe how an actor used his or her vocal skills in a particular scene to communicate emotion, showing your knowledge and understanding of the play as a whole...'

In one particular scene, Mr Samsa, played by Scott Smith, was trying to stamp on Gregor the beetle. It was a highly effective and tense scene, and had the audience on the edge of their seats fearing for Gregor's life. The scene was the climax of his building resentment towards Gregor and was deliberately uncomfortable to watch. To create the sheer evil of Mr. Samsa, Scott Smith furrowed his brow and clenched his jaw in anger. His facial expressions were contorted with fury and he was growling and bearing his teeth like an animal; this was especially ironic as he was calling Gregor a "filthy animal" whilst acting like one himself. Although previously frail in other scenes, this Mr Samsa was in contrast, suddenly athletic and agile, jumping around the stage forcefully, stamping his foot in rage. Scott Smith's posture was now upright, and his gait, whilst formerly bent over and hesitant, was surefooted and aggressive. This was done to show the real truth – that underneath the facade of the frail old man, too weak to work, was a capable human being that could have shouldered some of the responsibility for the family, instead of relying so heavily on Gregor, ultimately resulting in Gregor's demise.

To add to the horror of his actions, Scott Smith used his voice to heighten the terror. Wide-eyed and vicious, his coarse London accent harsh, his pitch dropped to a sinister low, and he spat out the words 'HE'S NOT MY SON!' enunciating each letter and pausing between each word – shouting each word at the same time as stamping his foot for added emphasis. This was highly effective as the threat and intention to kill Gregor was so obvious in his actions. The other actors added to the tension of this scene by letting their eyes dart around the room in synchrony to suggest the path of the insect trying to escape. Collectively sucking in breath in horror as the scene unfolded.