

## The Written Exam: What do I need to know?

### The value of the arts

**The performing arts in society:** What is an economic benefit? What is a social benefit? How does the performing arts bring economic and social benefits to a range of communities? How can the performing arts be used to explore social issues (class divide, racism, knife crime, gang culture)? What is the role of the performing arts? Is it to inform, educate or entertain?

### Working in the arts

**Job roles:** Artistic director, producer, director, actor, understudy, playwright, choreographer, choreologist, dancer, musical director, musician, singer, roadie, stage manager, deputy stage manager, assistant stage manager, lighting designer, sound designer, technician, costume designer, set designer, theatre manager, box office staff, usher, film maker, public relations.

What are their responsibilities? Who do they work with? What is their employment potential? What type of contract can they expect to be on (permanent, temporary)? What terminology do they need to know/use?

**Recruiting process:** How do you secure the job? What happens at an audition? What happens in an interview? What is a show-reel? What is a demo recording? What information goes on your CV/ Performer's website? How do you write a letter of application?

**Different teams:** Who is in the performance, production and FOH team?

**Contracts:** What are the four different types of contracts?

**Documents:** What are the different documents and who uses them? How do you mark up a script/text with technical cues? How do you create cue sheets and props lists? How do you draw up a stage plan? What does stage manager's notation look like?

**Design and technical:** Can you identify specific sound/lighting equipment? How do you set a props table? How does lighting, sound and design elements enhance a performance? What are the constraints on design, venue, performance space, specialist equipment? How can you use colour, light and shade to communicate meaning to an audience? How do you create mood and atmosphere through design elements?

**Professional bodies:** Who are the main professional bodies? Who do they represent? What do they do?

**Practitioners (Kneehigh/Frantic Assembly/Berkoff):** Who influenced the practitioner? What are the key features of their style? How has their work influenced yours? What did you create in their style?

**Process:** What are the different stages of staging a production from beginning to end?

**Approaches to rehearsals:** How do different companies (Kneehigh, Frantic Assembly etc) approach rehearsals? How do they develop their work? How do you organise a rehearsal room? What are the health and safety considerations?

**Marketing:** What are the different types of marketing? What will the marketing mix be for your production? What are the features of effective marketing campaigns? What would the merchandising be like? How do we consider audience demographics (who the work is created for/ different audience needs) when marketing a production?

What are the different ways of selling tickets? What considerations might be taken into account when deciding of pricing?

## Spaces

**Stage positions:** Whose point of view are they from? What are the abbreviations for each position?

**Stage configurations:** What does each stage configuration look like? What are the practical considerations for each configuration? What are the pros/cons?

**Areas of the theatre:** What are the different areas and what happens there?

**Range of venues:** What is a receiving house? What are repertory theatres/arts centres/ touring companies/ cinemas/ galleries and museums/ concert halls/ large events venues/ community-based venues? What type of event happens in each venue?

## Logistics

**The logistics of taking work on tour:** What are the practical considerations when taking a performance on tour? Set? Lighting? Blocking? Configuration?

**Health and Safety:** How do you create a risk assessment? What are some potential hazards and actions?

What are the requirements for health and safety for both performers and audiences in a range of venues? What are venue-specific considerations regarding audience numbers, access and safety? What are emergency contacts? Why do we have them? How is the audience managed? What security regulations are there? What are the front of house facilities, amenities? What are the working practices in performance areas? What are the working practices backstage? How is specialist equipment like lighting, sound, pyrotechnics maintained?

## Show business

**Funding:** What are the two types of funding? How do arts companies get funding? What does a funding bid look like?

**Sponsorship:** What is sponsorship? Which are the main sources of sponsorship? What do sponsors get in return for their money? What is the difference between an investor and a sponsor?

**Rights:** What are they? Which productions need them/don't need them? What are royalties? Who receives them?

**Budgeting:** What is a budget? What is expenditure and income?

**Programming:** What is a programme? What considerations need to be taken into account when creating the programme for a season? What is the programme at one professional theatre? Why is it effective?

## Evaluating work

**Reflecting on your own work:** How have you been influenced by practitioners? How have you developed your skills? How have you responded to feedback?

**Theatre review:** What are the features of a professional theatre review? Which performers were effective? What did they do? What did this communicate to the audience? What did the design elements communicate? What could have been improved? How did specific moments make you feel?

## Vocabulary/ format

**Theatrical terminology:** Which subject-specific language is used when talking about: acting, dancing, music, costume, sound, lighting, set, puppetry?

**Abbreviations:** What do the different abbreviations stand for?

**Presenting your work:** How do you create a storyboard? How do you respond to a stimulus? How do you respond to a brief? What are the features of a brief? How do you write a pitch? How do you create work for a target audience?