

LAMDA Acting Grade 8 Help Sheet

In your LAMDA exam you will have to answer questions about your pieces. Knowledge accounts for 20% of the exam mark for grades 4, 5 & 6; and 25% for grade 7 & 8. Therefore, it is important you do your research.

The difference between a Pass, Merit and Distinction is as follows:

Pass: a general description

Merit: a secure description

Distinction: a *detailed* description of the knowledge

YOU MUST DO YOUR RESEARCH – a few lost marks on knowledge can be the difference between Merit and Distinction!

The best thing to do is write out the answers for each question in bullet points:

- **The character's role within the context of the play as a whole:**
 - What is their purpose?
 - What do they influence?
 - What do they change?
 - What does the character represent?
 - Are they a catalyst for what happens?
 - How are they a part of the story?
 - What happens before your scene?
 - What happens after it?
 - What happens at the end of the play?
- **The key principles and influences in the process of acting for one of the following practitioners Constantin Stanislavski/ Bertol Brecht/ Jerzy Grotowski.**
 - How was theatre evolving at that time?
 - What needed to change?
 - What were they trying to achieve?
 - What is their philosophy?
 - How did they do this?

Constantin Stanislavski: Good resource - BBC Bitesize Website

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/zxn4mp3/revision>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/zwmvd2p/revision>

- **The processes involved in developing the three characters for performance**

Historical Context:

What is the acting style of the time?

Who was on the throne?

What is the politics of the time?

Where was it likely to be performed?
Does this effect the way you performed it?

Writing Style:

Is your piece in a specific style? E.g. Blank verse, continuous prose, colloquial, sophisticated language, rhyming, etc ...
How does this language effect your performance?
What is the pace and rhythm?

Objectives & Super Objectives:

What is your characters Objective?
What is your characters Super Objective?
How did this inspire you to create a character?

Costume & Make Up:

Does this influence your performance in any way?

Physicality:

How did you develop a sense of physicality through the above?

Example Answer: How did you develop your character for performance: The Comedy of Errors

Adriana is an incredibly headstrong character, we see this by Shakespeare's writing style; the blank verse depicts nobility and status. The witty exchanges and word play between characters throughout the play influenced my character's development as I knew the character would be fiery and bold.

Her costume would have been a full gown, meaning her movement would have been somewhat restricted. I held my characters head high and with open body language to show confidence and status.

The play would have originally been performed around 1595 when Queen Elizabeth was on the throne, most likely in an outdoor theatre such as the Rose or the Globe. This naturally lent itself to slightly bigger performances from the actors. A louder voice and gestures which were larger so the 3000 theatre attendees were able to see. (As no females were allowed to perform my part would have originally been played by a man or teenage boy.)

I then rehearsed my scene using Stanislavskian techniques such as the Magic If to convey a sense of naturalism and believability. I questioned how I would behave if I was in a similar situation and how that would effect my emotions. On the surface, I knew my character's objective was to get her husband to come home to dinner however looking deeper the subtext shows she is desperate for Antipholus's love and affection this was shown by my vocal variety and a well thought out process of emotions.

Don't be afraid to ask me for help and remember that "good fortune comes to the well prepared."