

SHARPE

GRADE 6 – BRONZE MEDAL

Scene 1: CHATROOM

The performance time of the scene must be a minimum of three minutes and no more than five minutes. The Learner(s) will present a brief introduction prior to the performance of no more than 30 seconds, announcing the play title, published date, author and character and outlining the context of the extract. A legible copy of the scene should be provided for the Examiner.

Scene 2: ROMEO & JULIET

The performance time of the scene must be a minimum of three minutes and no more than five minutes. The Learner(s) will present a brief introduction prior to the performance of no more than 30 seconds, announcing the play title, published date, author, character and publication date and outlining the context of the extract. A legible copy of the scene should be provided for the Examiner.

It is advised that Learners have read and/or seen the play, television or film screenplay in which their scene is taken from.

Knowledge

The Learner(s) will answer questions on the following:

- 1) The breathing techniques used to support the voice in each scene performed **see second page**
- 2) The character's objective in each scene performed

What does your character want from the scene and what tactics do they use to get what they want? For example do they beg, steal, shout...

- 3) The character's role within the context of each play as a whole

Read the play and talk about your own characters role whilst also talking about the synopsis of the play.

Notes on Breathing:

The breathing techniques will be individual to the scenes selected for the Examination, however, there may of course be some similarities in how the Learner(s) used their breath across both pieces. Learners should focus on what techniques they employed in order for the speech to be delivered which demonstrates their interpretation, ensuring that they could both be heard, and understood. It is worth considering the differences in breathing techniques required for different emotional and contextual situations

Why is breath control important for an actor?

Controlling your **breathing**. **Breathing** is very **important for an actor**. ... When you breathe in, the diaphragm contracts, pulling downwards to increase the volume of the chest and air is sucked into the lungs. The diaphragm relaxes when you release air and sound, so that the muscle is helping you **control** the output of air.

How do you control your breathing?

1. Breathe deeply from your lower lungs - imagine a rubber ring around your waist (your diaphragm)
2. Breathe in and try to push the ring outwards.
3. Breathe in through your nose and out through your nose and mouth.
4. Avoid raising your shoulders as you breathe in - keep them relaxed and level.
5. Relax!

Think about what you do differently when playing different characters.

- 1: Do you breathe more heavily for specific voices?
- 2: Does the speed at which you speak alter your breathing?
- 3: Give an example of the differences between both pieces

Suggested Further Reading

<http://sixminutes.dlugan.com/vocal-variety-speech-breathing/>

<http://erinrebeccaroberts.com/blog/2017/2/6/breathing-exercises-for-singing-and-acting>