

Pima JTED Stagecraft Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What is the main responsibility of a scenic designer?**
 - A. To construct the lighting for the show**
 - B. To create the visual environment through set design**
 - C. To manage the actors' performances**
 - D. To direct the overall production**
- 2. What is crepe hair used for in theater?**
 - A. Creating sound effects in performances**
 - B. Adding false hair in theatrical makeup**
 - C. Designing stage sets**
 - D. Constructing props for characters**
- 3. What is an important characteristic of oil-based paints?**
 - A. They dry very quickly**
 - B. They have long-lasting colors that require solvents for cleaning brushes**
 - C. They are water-soluble**
 - D. They are used primarily for special effects**
- 4. What technique does a whip stitch employ?**
 - A. A staple method for securing fabric edges**
 - B. A hand stitch that joins two pieces of fabric**
 - C. A machine stitch for creating patterns**
 - D. A knotting technique for securing props**
- 5. What does a heat gun typically generate?**
 - A. A low level of heat for drying paint**
 - B. A consistent temperature for soldering wires**
 - C. Extreme heat, often used for melting plastic**
 - D. A moderate heat for curling hair**
- 6. What is the function of the hand wheel/balance wheel on a sewing machine?**
 - A. To adjust the tension of the thread**
 - B. To manually advance the needle up and down**
 - C. To control the speed of the sewing machine**
 - D. To cut fabric at a specific length**

- 7. What does the term "properties (props)" refer to in stagecraft?**
- A. Items that actors handle during performances**
 - B. The set pieces that create the backdrop**
 - C. Lighting equipment used on stage**
 - D. Costumes worn by actors**
- 8. What is typically found within a production schedule chart?**
- A. Details about marketing strategies**
 - B. Information on changes in performance timings**
 - C. Each individual fixture and related data**
 - D. Names of crew members**
- 9. What is a double purchase counterweight system?**
- A. A system where 1 pound of weight over the stage requires 1 pound on the arbor**
 - B. A system where 1 pound of weight over the stage requires 2 pounds on the arbor**
 - C. A system that uses hydraulic lifts instead of weights**
 - D. A system that does not require any counterweights**
- 10. Which position is responsible for sound design in a production?**
- A. Stage Manager**
 - B. Lighting Designer**
 - C. Sound Designer**
 - D. Set Designer**

Answers

SAMPLE

- 1. B**
- 2. B**
- 3. B**
- 4. B**
- 5. C**
- 6. B**
- 7. A**
- 8. C**
- 9. B**
- 10. C**

SAMPLE

Explanations

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1. What is the main responsibility of a scenic designer?

- A. To construct the lighting for the show
- B. To create the visual environment through set design**
- C. To manage the actors' performances
- D. To direct the overall production

The primary role of a scenic designer is to create the visual environment through set design. This involves conceptualizing and designing the physical space in which the play or performance takes place, ensuring that the scenery aligns with the theme and mood of the production. The scenic designer collaborates closely with the director and other members of the creative team to bring the script to life visually. By establishing the atmosphere, style, and mood of the performance, the scenic designer influences how the audience perceives the story and characters. This role is crucial in setting the tone for the entire production and enhancing the audience's experience. The other responsibilities mentioned, such as constructing lighting or managing actors' performances, fall under the purview of different roles within the production team. Lighting design is a specialized area focused on illuminating the set, while managing the performances and directing the overall production is the responsibility of the director. Each position within a theatrical production contributes to the final outcome, but the scenic designer specifically focuses on crafting the physical backdrop that supports the narrative and engages the audience visually.

2. What is crepe hair used for in theater?

- A. Creating sound effects in performances
- B. Adding false hair in theatrical makeup**
- C. Designing stage sets
- D. Constructing props for characters

Crepe hair is a specialized material widely used in theatrical makeup to create realistic hairstyles, facial hair, or other hair textures that enhance a character's appearance. It is typically made from a type of synthetic fiber that can be easily applied and styled to match the character's requirements. Using crepe hair allows makeup artists to effectively depict various characters, from beards and mustaches to adding volume and texture to a wig. This kind of detail is crucial in theater, where visual storytelling relies on the audience's ability to connect with the characters portrayed. The flexibility of crepe hair makes it a versatile tool for achieving the desired look that aligns with the character's persona or time period. In contrast to crepe hair's primary function in makeup, the other options revolve around sound effects, stage design, and prop construction, which do not pertain to the application of hair in character representations.

3. What is an important characteristic of oil-based paints?

- A. They dry very quickly
- B. They have long-lasting colors that require solvents for cleaning brushes**
- C. They are water-soluble
- D. They are used primarily for special effects

An important characteristic of oil-based paints is that they have long-lasting colors and require solvents for cleaning brushes. Oil-based paints are known for their durability and rich, vibrant colors, which can provide a more intense finish compared to other types of paints. Once dried, oil-based paints form a tough, durable surface that can withstand wear and tear, making them popular for both interior and exterior applications. The requirement for solvents, such as mineral spirits or turpentine, for cleaning brushes is a key feature of oil-based paints. These solvents are necessary because oil-based paints do not dissolve in water, which makes cleanup more involved compared to water-based paints. This characteristic highlights the need for special handling and cleaning procedures when using oil-based products in stagecraft and other painting applications.

4. What technique does a whip stitch employ?

- A. A staple method for securing fabric edges
- B. A hand stitch that joins two pieces of fabric**
- C. A machine stitch for creating patterns
- D. A knotting technique for securing props

The whip stitch is a hand-sewing technique primarily used to join two pieces of fabric together. This stitch is characterized by its simple, quick method of securing the edge of one piece of fabric to another, making it a popular choice for hemming or finishing edges. The stitch is executed by passing the needle through the fabric at an angle and weaving it in and out along the edge, which creates a series of small stitches that are visible on one side but often remain nearly hidden on the other, contributing to a clean finish. This technique is especially valued in stagecraft for its ability to produce durable seams for costumes or fabric props while allowing for flexibility and ease of alteration when needed.

5. What does a heat gun typically generate?

- A. A low level of heat for drying paint
- B. A consistent temperature for soldering wires
- C. Extreme heat, often used for melting plastic**
- D. A moderate heat for curling hair

A heat gun is designed to generate extreme heat, making it suitable for various applications, such as melting plastic, stripping paint, and even shrinking wrap. This tool operates at much higher temperatures than the alternatives, typically reaching temperatures ranging from about 200°F to over 1000°F, depending on the model. This intensity is what enables it to effectively melt or soften materials like plastic for various crafting and repair tasks. The ability to produce this high level of heat is what distinguishes it from other tools that may produce lower levels of heat for specific functions, like drying paint or curling hair, which do not require as much thermal energy.

6. What is the function of the hand wheel/balance wheel on a sewing machine?

- A. To adjust the tension of the thread**
- B. To manually advance the needle up and down**
- C. To control the speed of the sewing machine**
- D. To cut fabric at a specific length**

7. What does the term "properties (props)" refer to in stagecraft?

- A. Items that actors handle during performances**
- B. The set pieces that create the backdrop**
- C. Lighting equipment used on stage**
- D. Costumes worn by actors**

The term "properties (props)" in stagecraft specifically refers to items that actors handle or interact with during performances. These can include a wide variety of objects, such as furniture, weapons, hand-held items, and any other objects that are necessary for the performance of the play or scene. Props help to create the realism of the performance and can be instrumental in storytelling by providing context about the characters and their actions. In contrast, the other options refer to different aspects of stagecraft. Set pieces create the environmental backdrop and structure of the stage but do not refer to items handled by actors. Lighting equipment, while essential for illuminating the performance and creating mood, does not fall under the category of props since it is not something the actors directly use. Costumes are worn by actors to depict their characters and are also not classified as props, as they serve a different purpose in the overall production. Understanding these distinctions helps to clarify the specific function that props serve in theater.

8. What is typically found within a production schedule chart?

- A. Details about marketing strategies**
- B. Information on changes in performance timings**
- C. Each individual fixture and related data**
- D. Names of crew members**

A production schedule chart primarily serves to organize and outline specific tasks, timelines, and elements essential for a production. The correct answer relates to the detailed information regarding each individual fixture and related data, which is crucial for coordinating various aspects of production, such as lighting, sound equipment, and stage elements. This detailed information ensures that technicians and crew are aware of what fixtures will be needed, where they will be positioned, and how they operate. In contrast, while marketing strategies and changes in performance timings are important for the overall success of a production, they do not pertain to the intimate operational details that a production schedule chart focuses on. Similarly, while knowing the names of crew members is valuable, it does not provide the specific technical information that is necessary for executing the production accurately. A production schedule chart is all about the logistics and planning of the performance itself, which emphasizes the importance of fixture details and their role in the overall production effort.

9. What is a double purchase counterweight system?

- A. A system where 1 pound of weight over the stage requires 1 pound on the arbor**
- B. A system where 1 pound of weight over the stage requires 2 pounds on the arbor**
- C. A system that uses hydraulic lifts instead of weights**
- D. A system that does not require any counterweights**

A double purchase counterweight system is designed to provide a mechanical advantage by requiring less weight on the arbor than the actual weight being supported above the stage. In this scenario, for every 1 pound of weight located over the stage, 2 pounds of counterweight on the arbor is needed. This system allows for greater efficiency and control in handling heavy scenic elements and reduces the physical demands on stagehands when adjusting and rigging those elements. The design of a double purchase system means that the user can safely lift heavier loads without needing to match the weight directly on the arbor. This is particularly useful in theatrical settings where safety, space, and operability are paramount. The other choices do not accurately capture the characteristics or workings of a double purchase counterweight system, focusing instead on other configurations or not accurately representing the fundamental mechanics involved.

10. Which position is responsible for sound design in a production?

- A. Stage Manager**
- B. Lighting Designer**
- C. Sound Designer**
- D. Set Designer**

The role of the Sound Designer is specifically focused on creating and managing the auditory elements of a production. This includes selecting and manipulating sound effects, designing and programming soundscapes, and ensuring that all audio components are effectively integrated into the overall performance. Sound Designers often collaborate with the director and the rest of the creative team to enhance the narrative and emotional impact of the production through sound. In contrast, other roles like the Stage Manager, Lighting Designer, and Set Designer each have distinct responsibilities that do not primarily involve sound design. The Stage Manager oversees the overall operations of a production and ensures that everything runs smoothly. The Lighting Designer focuses on the visual aspect of the performance through lighting, while the Set Designer is responsible for creating the physical environment where the performance takes place. Each of these positions contributes essential components to a production, but the Sound Designer uniquely handles all sound-related elements.