

# SQA National 5 Drama Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

**This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,**

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# Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

# How to Use This Guide

**This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:**

## **1. Start with a Diagnostic Review**

**Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Don't worry about getting everything right, your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.**

## **2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions**

**Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations, and take breaks to retain information better.**

## **3. Learn from the Explanations**

**After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.**

## **4. Track Your Progress**

**Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.**

## **5. Simulate the Real Exam**

**Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.**

## **6. Repeat and Review**

**Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning.**

## **7. Use Other Tools**

**Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.**

**There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly — adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!**

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## **Questions**

- 1. What is a speech made by a character alone on stage called?**
  - A. Monologue**
  - B. Dialogue**
  - C. Soliloquy**
  - D. Aside**
- 2. What is the term for when actors' eyes meet on stage?**
  - A. Eye contact**
  - B. Engagement**
  - C. Connection**
  - D. Focus**
- 3. What term refers to when the whole acting area is evenly lit?**
  - A. Spotlight**
  - B. Wash**
  - C. Highlight**
  - D. Floodlight**
- 4. What does 'fluency' encompass in the context of speech?**
  - A. Speed of delivery**
  - B. Natural and flowing speech**
  - C. Volume of the voice**
  - D. Stress on certain words**
- 5. What describes the explanation of symbols found on a ground plan?**
  - A. Key**
  - B. Set dressing**
  - C. Sight lines**
  - D. Wig**



- 6. What is the primary purpose of tension in drama?**
- A. To confuse the audience**
  - B. To create emotional connections**
  - C. To stop the drama from becoming boring**
  - D. To enhance character development**
- 7. What is the area above the stage called where scenery and actors are flown in using pulleys?**
- A. Deck**
  - B. Flies**
  - C. Loft**
  - D. Gridiron**
- 8. What is the area of seating located above the stalls but below the balcony called?**
- A. Dress Circle**
  - B. Mezzanine**
  - C. Balcony**
  - D. Orchestra**
- 9. What is the purpose of spirit gum in special effects make-up?**
- A. To blend colors together**
  - B. To attach hair to the face**
  - C. To create shadows**
  - D. To remove make-up**
- 10. What term describes the clothing worn by actors to represent their characters?**
- A. Outfit**
  - B. Costume**
  - C. Wardrobe**
  - D. Attire**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What is a speech made by a character alone on stage called?**

- A. Monologue**
- B. Dialogue**
- C. Soliloquy**
- D. Aside**

A speech made by a character alone on stage is referred to as a soliloquy. This dramatic device allows the character to express their thoughts and feelings directly to the audience, providing insight into their internal conflicts and motivations. Soliloquies are commonly found in classical theatre, notably in the works of William Shakespeare, where characters often reveal their innermost thoughts and dilemmas during these moments of solitude. In contrast, a monologue involves a long speech by one character, but it may occur in the presence of others, and it doesn't require the character to be alone on stage. Dialogue refers to conversations between two or more characters, while an aside is a brief remark that a character makes directly to the audience, usually meant to be heard only by them and not by other characters on stage. Understanding these distinctions enhances one's appreciation of character development and dramatic technique in theatre.

**2. What is the term for when actors' eyes meet on stage?**

- A. Eye contact**
- B. Engagement**
- C. Connection**
- D. Focus**

The term for when actors' eyes meet on stage is known as eye contact. This concept is crucial in performing arts because it establishes an immediate connection between characters and between performers and the audience. Eye contact can convey a range of emotions and intentions—such as trust, conflict, or attraction—enhancing the overall storytelling. It helps to engage both the actors and the spectators, creating a more immersive experience. While engagement, connection, and focus may refer to important aspects of performance, they do not specifically address the visual link created when actors look at each other, which is distinctly captured by the term eye contact.

**3. What term refers to when the whole acting area is evenly lit?**

- A. Spotlight**
- B. Wash**
- C. Highlight**
- D. Floodlight**

The term that refers to when the whole acting area is evenly lit is "wash." A wash involves using a broad beam of light to illuminate a large area on stage uniformly, creating a soft, even light that allows actors and set elements to be seen clearly without harsh shadows. This technique is essential in theatre because it sets the overall mood of a scene and ensures visibility for the audience throughout the performance. In contrast, spotlight generally refers to a more focused beam of light used to highlight a specific area or actor, creating emphasis rather than an even distribution. Highlight refers to a specific brightened area within a set or performance that draws attention, often created by directional lighting rather than a wash. Floodlight, while it can light large areas, typically refers to a type of light fixture rather than the technique of lighting an entire area evenly.

**4. What does 'fluency' encompass in the context of speech?**

- A. Speed of delivery**
- B. Natural and flowing speech**
- C. Volume of the voice**
- D. Stress on certain words**

Fluency in the context of speech primarily refers to the ability to speak smoothly and efficiently, which is characterized by natural and flowing speech patterns. This includes the connection between words and phrases, the ease with which one can express thoughts, and the overall coherence of spoken language. When speech is fluent, it allows the speaker to communicate their message clearly and effectively, making it easier for the audience to follow along and understand the content being delivered. Other aspects, such as speed of delivery, can influence how fluently something is perceived, but they do not define fluency itself. Volume of the voice and stress on certain words are also important elements of effective communication but pertain more to vocal techniques and emphasis rather than the essence of fluency. Fluency is ultimately about the overall flow and naturalness of the speech rather than its individual components.

**5. What describes the explanation of symbols found on a ground plan?**

**A. Key**

**B. Set dressing**

**C. Sight lines**

**D. Wig**

The choice of "Key" accurately describes the explanation of symbols found on a ground plan because a key is used to provide clarification about the various symbols depicted in the drawing. It acts as a guide that helps everyone involved in the production understand what each symbol represents, such as different types of furniture, stage areas, or technical elements like lighting and sound equipment. In the context of theatre production, a ground plan is a scaled diagram of the stage and its surroundings as seen from above. The key is essential because it allows directors, designers, and crew members to effectively communicate their vision and execute the production accurately, ensuring that all elements are placed as intended. The other options do not fit this context. Set dressing refers to the items placed on the set to create a particular atmosphere or style but does not explain the symbols. Sight lines pertain to the visibility from various audience angles and would not describe the key to understanding the symbols. A wig is a costume accessory and also unrelated to the symbols on the ground plan.

**6. What is the primary purpose of tension in drama?**

**A. To confuse the audience**

**B. To create emotional connections**

**C. To stop the drama from becoming boring**

**D. To enhance character development**

The primary purpose of tension in drama is to create emotional connections. Tension is a critical element that drives the narrative forward and keeps the audience engaged with the characters and their conflicts. By building tension, the drama evokes a range of emotions—such as anticipation, fear, excitement, or empathy—which helps audiences invest in the characters' journeys. This emotional connection is essential for effective storytelling, as it allows viewers to feel the stakes of the characters' situations and become immersed in the unfolding drama. While tension can contribute to maintaining interest and preventing the drama from becoming boring, its deeper impact is rooted in fostering those emotional ties between the audience and the story. This connection is what ultimately makes the experience of watching a performance compelling and memorable.

**7. What is the area above the stage called where scenery and actors are flown in using pulleys?**

- A. Deck**
- B. Flies**
- C. Loft**
- D. Gridiron**

The area above the stage where scenery and actors are flown in using pulleys is known as the flies. This region consists of a system of ropes, pulleys, and counterweights that allow for the smooth operation of curtains, backdrops, and various stage elements being raised or lowered as needed during a performance. The design of the flies enables quick changes and adjustments, which are essential for theatrical productions. While the deck refers to the stage floor itself, the loft typically refers to the space above the stage that may house equipment or support structures but does not specifically indicate the system for flying in scenery. The gridiron, although relevant in theatrical structures as a support for the rigging, has a more technical architectural meaning and does not focus specifically on the functionality of moving stage elements. Therefore, flies is the most accurate term for the area designed for this purpose in a theatre setting.

**8. What is the area of seating located above the stalls but below the balcony called?**

- A. Dress Circle**
- B. Mezzanine**
- C. Balcony**
- D. Orchestra**

The area of seating located above the stalls but below the balcony is known as the Dress Circle. This term specifically designates a section of tiered seating that typically offers a good view of the stage while still being a bit more affordable than the balcony seats higher up. The Dress Circle is usually characterized by its elevation above the main floor (stalls) and its position just beneath the balcony, making it a prime location for audience members seeking a balance between cost and visibility. In contrast, the Mezzanine refers to a slightly different seating area, often positioned in a similar height range but can have different structural characteristics depending on the theatre. The Balcony is the highest level of seating, situated above both the stalls and Dress Circle, leading to a more distant view of the stage. The Orchestra, on the other hand, typically refers to the area in front of the stage, often where the stage performers' musicians sit, rather than spectators. Understanding these distinctions highlights why the Dress Circle is the correct answer to your question.



**9. What is the purpose of spirit gum in special effects make-up?**

- A. To blend colors together**
- B. To attach hair to the face**
- C. To create shadows**
- D. To remove make-up**

Spirit gum serves a specific purpose in special effects make-up by adhering hairpieces or other materials to the skin or face. When applying wigs, beards, or additional hair for character transformation, spirit gum allows for a strong bond that helps the pieces stay in place throughout a performance or event. Its adhesive properties are particularly valued in the make-up industry because they are designed to safely adhere to skin, ensuring that the application looks natural and remains durable during use. The other choices do not accurately represent the main function of spirit gum. Blending colors together typically involves the use of makeup products like creams, pigments, or powders. Creating shadows is achieved through techniques involving the application of darker shades or contouring products, rather than an adhesive. Finally, removing make-up requires the use of specific cleansers or solvents, which is distinctly different from what spirit gum offers as a sticking agent.

**10. What term describes the clothing worn by actors to represent their characters?**

- A. Outfit**
- B. Costume**
- C. Wardrobe**
- D. Attire**

The term "costume" specifically refers to the clothing designed to portray the characters that actors embody in a theatrical production. Costumes are an essential element of theatre, as they help to convey character identity, time period, and setting. In the context of performance, costumes are meticulously crafted or selected to support the storytelling aspect of the play, enhancing the visual appeal and authenticity of the characters. While "outfit," "wardrobe," and "attire" can all describe various forms of clothing, they do not carry the same specific connotation in a theatrical sense. "Outfit" typically refers to any combination of clothing items worn together, but it lacks the contextual association with character representation. "Wardrobe" often refers to a collection of clothing owned by an individual or the entire range of costumes available for a production, rather than the clothing worn by characters in a performance. "Attire" is a more general term for clothing and does not specifically imply theatricality or character representation. Thus, "costume" is the most accurate term when discussing the clothing worn by actors to depict their roles.

## Next Steps

**Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.**

**As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.**

**If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at [hello@examzify.com](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://sqanational5drama.examzify.com>**

**We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!**