

Technical Theatre Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

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- 1. Where are rehearsal schedules and theater-related messages commonly posted?**
 - A. Call board**
 - B. Lobby door**
 - C. Scene shop**
 - D. Green room**
- 2. Who is responsible for collaborating with the director to create the physical environment on stage?**
 - A. Producers**
 - B. Business managers**
 - C. Accountants**
 - D. Designers**
- 3. Who is responsible for moving scenery in and out from above the stage?**
 - A. Carpenters**
 - B. Deck crew**
 - C. Props crew**
 - D. Fly person**
- 4. Which crew is accountable for maintaining the stage's visual elements during the performance?**
 - A. Props crew**
 - B. Deck crew**
 - C. Dressers**
 - D. Actors**
- 5. Which saw is ideal for giving a smooth cut and is often used with a mitre box?**
 - A. Crosscut saw**
 - B. Keyhole saw**
 - C. Back saw**
 - D. Hack saw**

- 6. Which type of saw is used to cut wood across the grain?**
- A. Crosscut saw**
 - B. Keyhole saw**
 - C. Back saw**
 - D. Jig saw**
- 7. What type of screw is recommended for thinner pieces of wood?**
- A. Sheet metal screws**
 - B. Wood screws**
 - C. Drywall screws**
 - D. Lag screws**
- 8. Who has the final say in creative matters of a production?**
- A. Director**
 - B. Producer**
 - C. Designer**
 - D. Choreographer**
- 9. A large piece of fabric often used as a backdrop for lighting effects is referred to as what?**
- A. Scrim**
 - B. Traveler**
 - C. Cyc**
 - D. Backdrop**
- 10. Who oversees all the technical crews during the production preparation period?**
- A. Producer**
 - B. Stage manager**
 - C. Tech director**
 - D. Director**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Where are rehearsal schedules and theater-related messages commonly posted?

- A. Call board**
- B. Lobby door**
- C. Scene shop**
- D. Green room**

The call board is the designated area where rehearsal schedules, announcements, and other important theater-related messages are displayed for the cast and crew. This centralized location ensures that everyone involved in the production has access to the same information, including changes in rehearsal times, casting decisions, and other vital updates. The call board serves as a communication hub within the theater, allowing for efficient dissemination of information and helping to keep everyone informed and organized throughout the production process. While other areas such as the lobby door, scene shop, and green room may serve various purposes and foster communication, they are not specifically intended for the posting of official schedules and notices in the same focused manner as the call board. The call board's role is fundamental in maintaining clear and organized communication necessary for a successful production.

2. Who is responsible for collaborating with the director to create the physical environment on stage?

- A. Producers**
- B. Business managers**
- C. Accountants**
- D. Designers**

The designers are key collaborators with the director in creating the physical environment on stage. This group encompasses various specialties, including set designers, costume designers, lighting designers, and sound designers, each contributing their expertise to enhance the overall vision of the production. Set designers focus specifically on the environment where the action takes place, translating the director's interpretation of the script into visual elements. Their responsibilities involve not only creating sets that fit the narrative and style of the production but also ensuring practical elements such as sightlines and safety are considered. Costume designers enhance characters through attire, while lighting and sound designers create atmosphere and mood, further supporting the director's concept. Collaboration among these creative professionals allows a cohesive and immersive experience for the audience, as they work together to manifest the director's vision. In contrast, producers manage the overall budget and logistics of the production, business managers handle administrative tasks, and accountants track financial details which do not directly relate to the artistic collaboration needed to create the physical environment on stage.

3. Who is responsible for moving scenery in and out from above the stage?

- A. Carpenters**
- B. Deck crew**
- C. Props crew**
- D. Fly person**

The fly person is responsible for moving scenery in and out from above the stage. This role is essential in the operation of a fly system, which utilizes ropes, pulleys, and counterweights to raise and lower various elements of the set, such as backdrops, curtains, and other scenic pieces. Fly persons are trained to operate these systems safely and effectively, ensuring that the movement of scenery occurs seamlessly and at the correct timing during performances. Their expertise is critical in creating the desired visual effects and transitions on stage, as well as maintaining safety for both the performers and the crew. The other roles mentioned, while important in their own right, do not specifically handle the movement of scenery from above the stage. Carpenters focus primarily on constructing set pieces, the deck crew is responsible for managing elements on the stage floor, and the props crew handles individual props, but none are involved in operating the fly system directly.

4. Which crew is accountable for maintaining the stage's visual elements during the performance?

- A. Props crew**
- B. Deck crew**
- C. Dressers**
- D. Actors**

The props crew is responsible for managing all the properties and visual elements that are used on stage during a performance. This includes ensuring that any props are set in their correct positions before the show and that they are in good condition throughout the performance. The crew must also be attentive to any scene changes that require props to be added or removed, ensuring that everything appears as intended to enhance the overall visual storytelling of the production. In contrast, other roles have varying responsibilities that do not primarily focus on managing visual elements. The deck crew typically assists with the physical aspects of the stage, such as set changes and maintenance, but not necessarily the visual details like props. Dressers assist actors with costume changes and maintenance of outfits, and while they contribute to the visual aspect of the performance, they do not manage props. Actors, while they contribute to the visual presentation through performance and their costumes, are not responsible for the overall management of the stage's visual elements.

5. Which saw is ideal for giving a smooth cut and is often used with a mitre box?

- A. Crosscut saw**
- B. Keyhole saw**
- C. Back saw**
- D. Hack saw**

The back saw is designed with a stiffened spine and fine teeth, which allows it to produce very smooth and precise cuts, making it an ideal choice for detailed woodworking applications, such as those performed in a mitre box. The mitre box is a tool that helps to hold the workpiece at a specific angle for accurate cuts, and the back saw complements this setup well due to its ability to maintain control during the cutting process, resulting in clean edges necessary for projects like picture framing or cabinetry. The other options, while useful for different purposes, do not provide the same level of precision. For instance, a crosscut saw is more suited for cutting wood across the grain but tends to produce a rougher edge. A keyhole saw is designed for making small cuts or curves in thin materials, and while versatile, it does not align with the need for smooth, straight cuts required in conjunction with a mitre box. Meanwhile, a hack saw is primarily used for cutting metal and has a different tooth configuration, which does not provide the smooth finish needed for woodworking projects. Thus, the features of the back saw make it the ideal choice for this specific task.

6. Which type of saw is used to cut wood across the grain?

- A. Crosscut saw**
- B. Keyhole saw**
- C. Back saw**
- D. Jig saw**

The crosscut saw is specifically designed for cutting wood across the grain. Its teeth are shaped and set in a way that allows for efficient cutting through the fibers of the wood, making it the ideal tool for this type of cut. When cutting across the grain, it's important to have a saw that can create smooth, clean cuts without splintering, and the crosscut saw excels in this regard. In contrast, other saws such as a keyhole saw are more suited for making intricate or curved cuts in thinner materials, and a back saw is typically used for precise cuts in joinery, especially along the grain. A jigsaw is primarily intended for cutting intricate shapes and curves in a variety of materials, including wood, but is not the best choice for making straight cuts across the grain. Therefore, the crosscut saw is the most appropriate tool for cutting wood across the grain due to its unique design tailored for that specific purpose.

7. What type of screw is recommended for thinner pieces of wood?

- A. Sheet metal screws**
- B. Wood screws**
- C. Drywall screws**
- D. Lag screws**

The recommended screw for thinner pieces of wood is drywall screws. These screws are designed specifically for fastening materials like drywall, which is relatively thin, to wooden or metal studs. They have a sharp point that allows for easy penetration into thin boards, minimizing the risk of splitting the wood. Additionally, their fine threads provide a strong grip in thin materials without requiring pre-drilling, making them ideal for quick and effective fastening in these contexts. In contrast, wood screws, while also usable for thinner wood, tend to have a thicker gauge and are often better suited for thicker or denser materials where more holding power is required. Sheet metal screws are designed for fastening metal and may not hold as well in thin wood, and lag screws are heavy-duty fasteners used for thick materials and structural applications, making them inappropriate for finer woodworking tasks. Thus, drywall screws are the optimal choice for achieving secure connections in thinner wood pieces.

8. Who has the final say in creative matters of a production?

- A. Director**
- B. Producer**
- C. Designer**
- D. Choreographer**

The director has the final say in the creative matters of a production because they are responsible for shaping the artistic vision of the entire show. This includes interpreting the script, guiding the performances of the actors, collaborating with designers, and making critical decisions about staging, pacing, and overall presentation. The director acts as the central figure who synthesizes input from various collaborators such as the producer, designer, and choreographer, ensuring that all elements align with their vision for the production. This leadership role is essential in creating a cohesive theatrical experience that resonates with the audience. While producers, designers, and choreographers all play vital roles within a production, their contributions are ultimately directed by the vision established by the director, who integrates those ideas into a unified performance.

9. A large piece of fabric often used as a backdrop for lighting effects is referred to as what?

- A. Scrim**
- B. Traveler**
- C. Cyc**
- D. Backdrop**

The term "cyc" refers to a large piece of fabric, often white or light-colored, primarily used as a backdrop in theatrical productions to create an illusion of expanded space or to enhance lighting effects. When lit from different colors or angles, a cyc can produce a variety of atmospheric effects, serving as a canvas for washes of color or projections. This versatility makes it a favored choice in many lighting designs, contributing significantly to the overall mood and aesthetic of a performance. In contrast, a scrim is a fabric that becomes transparent when lit from the front but opaque when lit from behind, often used for specific effects rather than as a primary backdrop. A traveler refers to a type of curtain that opens and closes by sliding along a track, primarily used for masking or dividing stage areas. A backdrop typically refers to any cloth set at the rear of the stage, but it may not possess the specific qualities that make a cyc particularly effective for lighting techniques.

10. Who oversees all the technical crews during the production preparation period?

- A. Producer**
- B. Stage manager**
- C. Tech director**
- D. Director**

The technical director plays a crucial role in overseeing all technical crews during the production preparation period. This position involves coordinating various aspects of the production, including lighting, sound, set construction, and costume design. The technical director ensures that the vision of the production is realized through effective collaboration among the different departments. This role often includes organizing schedules, conducting meetings with crew heads, and ensuring that all technical elements are ready and functioning properly before performances begin. The technical director's knowledge and experience in the various technical disciplines allow them to solve problems efficiently and ensure that the production runs smoothly. Other roles in the production, such as the producer, stage manager, and director, focus on different aspects. The producer generally manages the overall budget and financial aspects of the production, while the director focuses on the artistic vision and the staging of the performance. The stage manager coordinates the execution of the performance during rehearsal and showtimes but does not oversee all technical crews in the preparation phase like the technical director does.