



Drama Home Learning Task

Year 9

Stage Design

Name _____

Tutor Group _____

Teacher _____

Given out: Monday 17 September Hand in: Monday 24 September

Parent/Carer Comment

Staff Comment

Target

You will need to read the information in this booklet carefully in order to answer all the questions.

The questions and tasks are set out in bold lettering and they are numbered.

Remember; if you get stuck you can ask a number of different people for help:

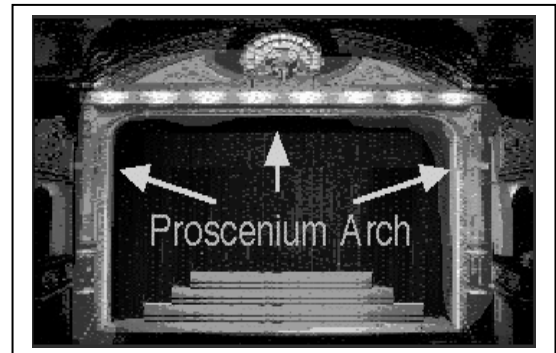
- 1. Adults at home.**
- 2. Your tutor.**
- 3. Homework club.**
- 4. Your friends.**
- 5. Mr Grant.**

TASK ONE - Types of stage

There are many different types of stage. In today's task you need to read through the information on the next three pages before answering the questions 1-6.

Proscenium Arch/ End-On

An END-ON stage is when you have a stage with the audience in front of it. There are three main types of END-ON stage. The first is a PROSCENIUM ARCH; this is where the front of the stage has a structure that looks a little like a picture frame. The PROSCENIUM (the name for the frame) gives front wings (area for actors or large furniture and flats to enter or exit) to the stage.



End-On Stage (Proscenium Arch)

A RAISED STAGE is the type of stage we have in our school hall. The stage is above the audience and is often slanted towards the audience to improve sight lines. A FLOOR STAGE is when the audience seating is tiered and therefore (apart from the front row) is above the audience.



End-On Stage (Raised Stage)

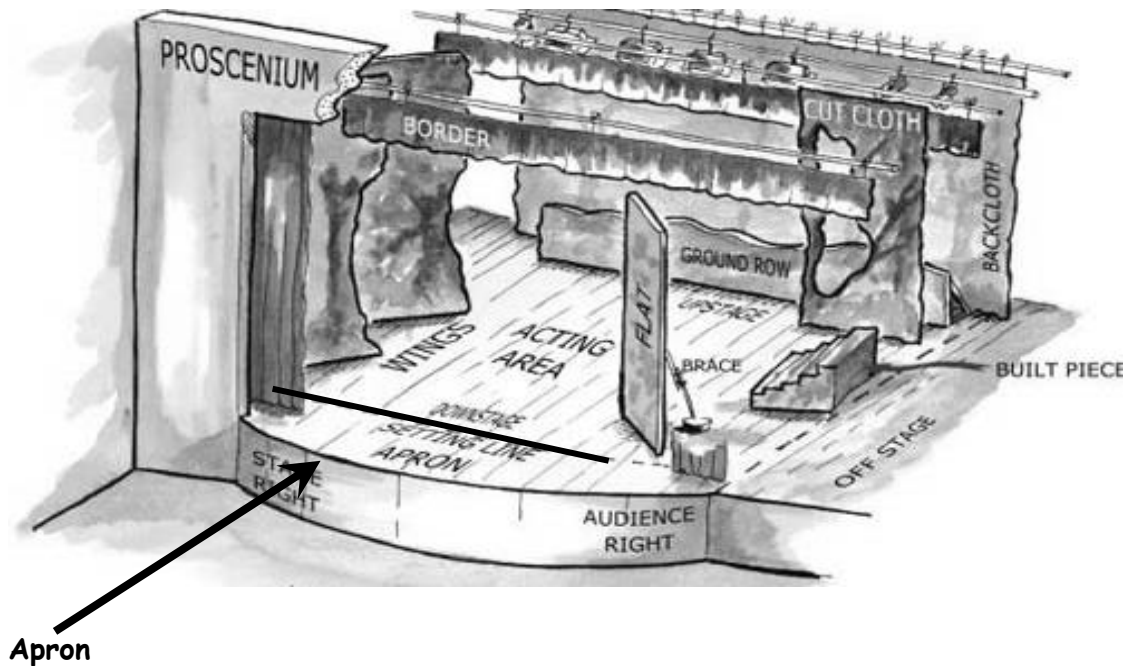
Notice in the picture below that there is no proscenium arch and the stage is above the audience in the stalls.



End-On Stage (Floor Stage)

Apron Stage

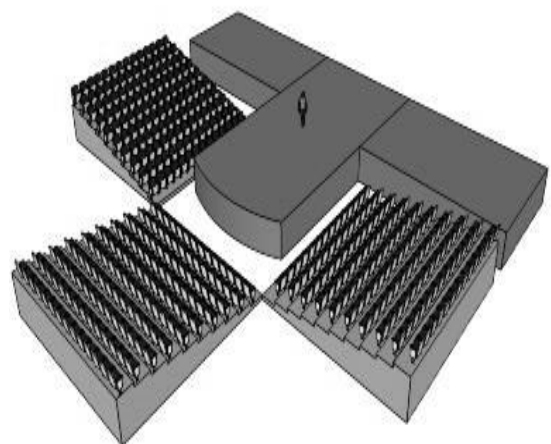
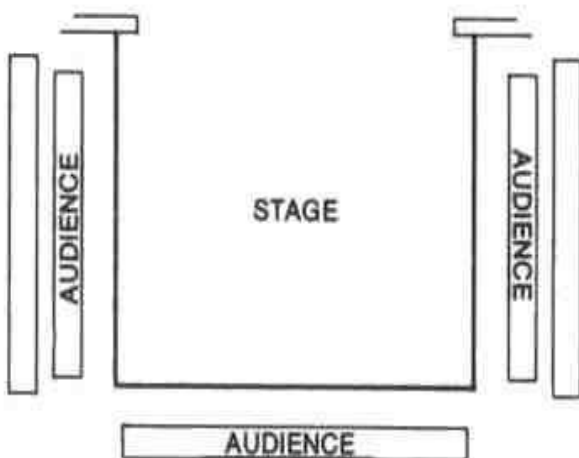
An apron stage is found in most proscenium arch spaces and is the term used for the small portion of stage that is in front of the proscenium. In cases where there are no prosceniums then the apron is in front of the tab line (the term used for the front curtains).



Thrust Stage

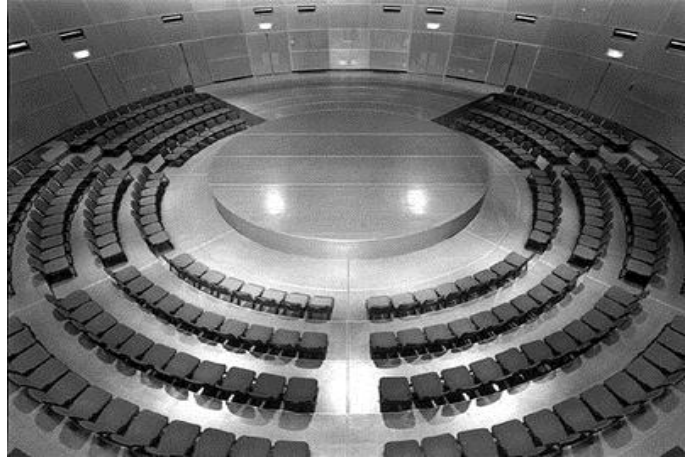
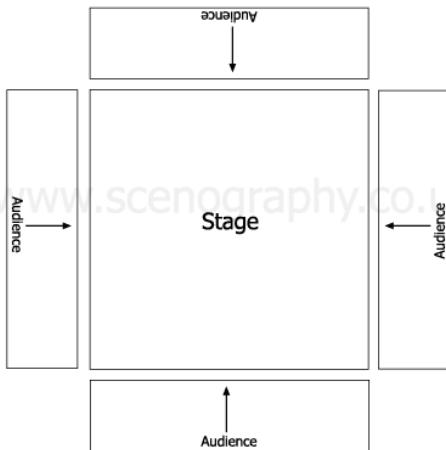
A thrust stage extends into the audience so that it will have an audience on three sides of the acting space.

Thrust Stage



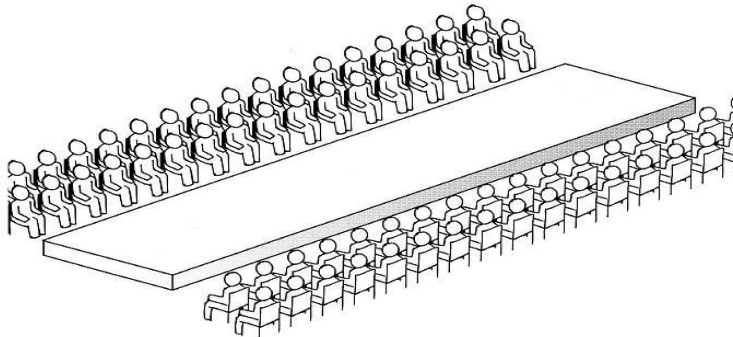
Theatre In the Round

Theatre in the round is the term used to describe a performance which has audience on all four sides. It is sometimes known as an arena performance.



Traverse Stage

Traverse stage is the description given to a stage that has audience on two sides of it. The stage is like a road and the audience is like the houses on either side of the road.



Promenade Performance

A promenade performance has no fixed stage, instead the audience follows the action around the performance space. This could mean that they are in one space which has different stages set up, or it could be that the performance is outdoors and the audience follows the actors from one location to another.

Task 1 Questions

All of the questions on this page ask for your own opinions. Therefore there should be no reason for you not to attempt all questions.

1. What advantages do you think a director would have if directing a play on a proscenium arch stage?

2. What disadvantages do you think a director would have if directing a play on a proscenium arch stage?

3. What difficulties could you see if you were trying to direct a play using theatre in the round?

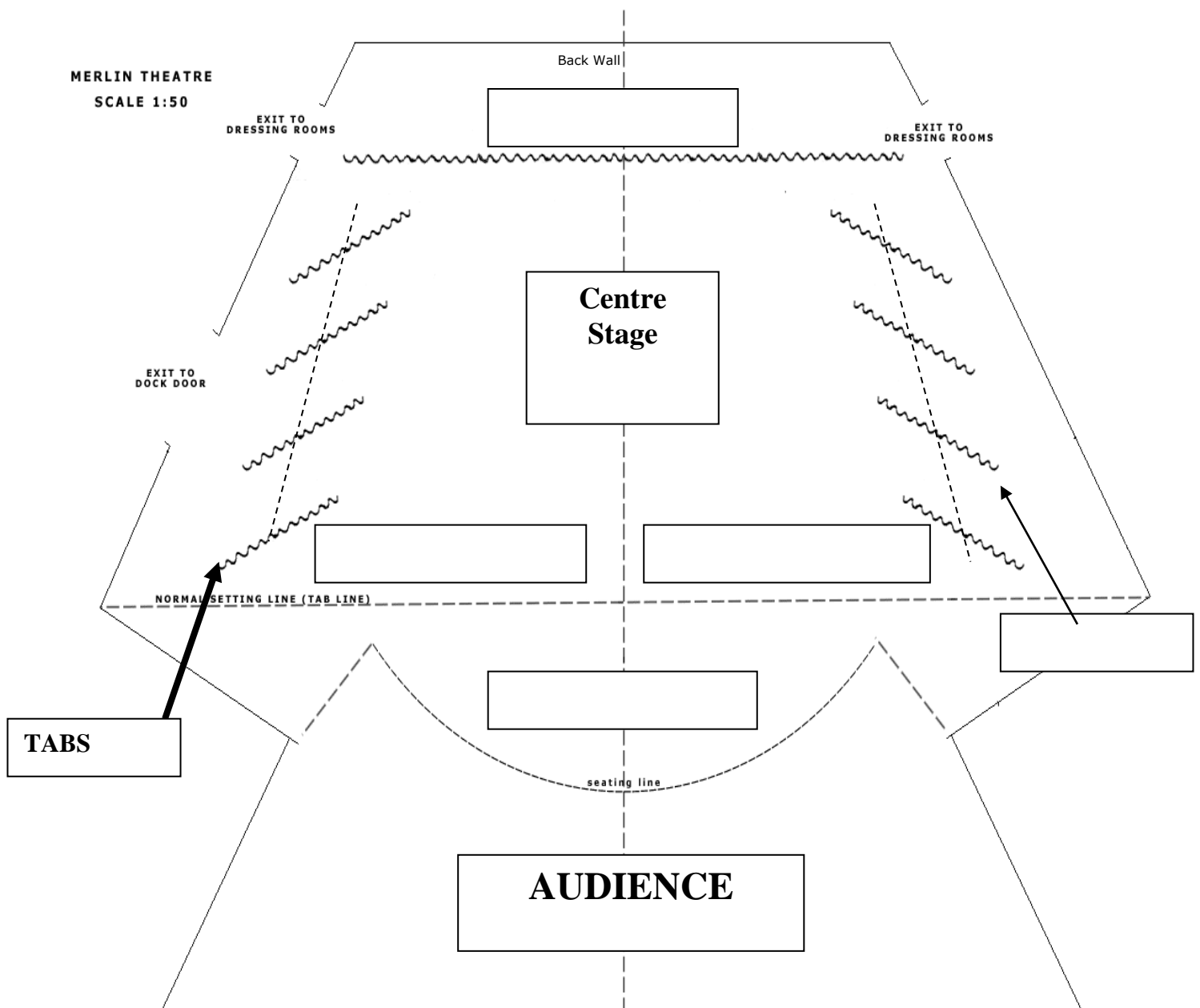
4. What do you think the advantages of directing a play in the round would be?

TASK TWO -Stage Areas

Use the *STAGE DESCRIPTION* to fill in the boxes on the diagram.

Stage Description

A stage is split into different areas. The area closest to the audience is known as **downstage**. The area furthest from the audience is known as **upstage**. The centre point of the stage is known as **centre stage**. The stage also consists of **stage right** and **stage left**. These terms often confuse people as they are not the right and left as you look from the audience, but instead are taken from the actor's point of view. To work out stage left and right you need to imagine you are an actor standing on the centre stage spot and looking out at the audience. The space on your right is **stage right**, the space on your left is **stage left**. The far left and right of the stage will often have curtains known as **tabs**. These provide entrances and exits for the actors. This area is referred to as the **wings**.

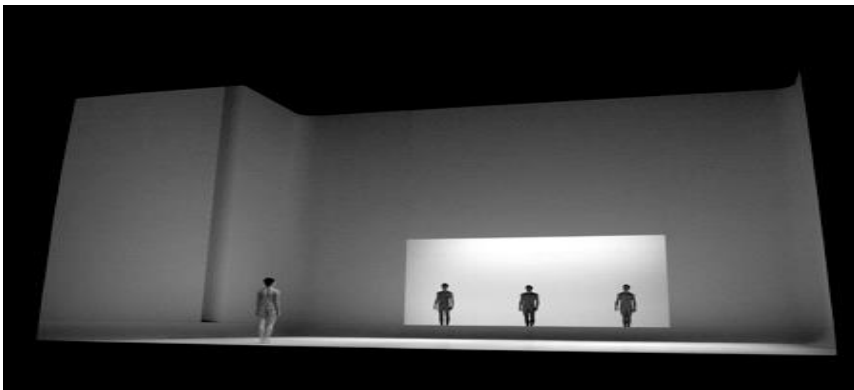


Styles of Stage Design

*Read through the following information and then answer Task 2 questions.
All the answers are in the information set out below.*

Minimalist Stage Design

- A minimalist staging is when the designer uses as little furniture or set pieces as possible.
- A minimalist stage is often white or made up of very pale colours.
- Atmosphere is created more through lighting than the set pieces.
- Any furniture or set pieces are normally symbolic.
- Minimalist sets are used for theatre in the round, thrust and traverse stages as these spaces can't have obstructions for the audience's sight lines. However they are also popular on end on stages when a designer wants to have a clean and uncluttered stage.



This is a classic minimalist set design. The white walls and no furniture make the stage very stark. Using a minimalist set makes any colour you add through your actors, their costumes and in this case projection seem much brighter.

Symbolic Stage Design

- A symbolic stage design is when a designer will use small elements of a setting to symbolise where the play/ scene is set eg a door in its frame might symbolise the position of a whole wall.
- Symbolic sets are popular as they can be used to create the illusion of a space without building the whole thing and therefore it is a very cost effective way of building a set.



This is a set for a play based in a fishing village. Here the entire village is symbolised by the jetty (wooden planks) and the community's fishing connections are symbolised by the large fishing net that makes up the backdrop.

Realistic Stage Design

- A realistic stage is not symbolic.
- A realistic stage often looks very similar to the real world; however, the designer might experiment with scale (eg an entire exterior of a house may appear on stage even though there is no way a real house could fit in the space).



In this set we have a traditional realistic set as at first glance it seems very accurate to the outside world. However, when you look closer there are obvious differences. The set is only part of the house; how does the porch stay up with only a fraction of a pillar?

Naturalistic Stage Design

- Naturalistic stages must be an exact copy of the outside world in every way.
- It is often difficult to spot the difference between a naturalistic and realistic set design. The way to think of it is that a naturalistic set must be IDENTICAL to the outside world, while a realistic stage appears to look like the outside world but is not IDENTICAL.



This is a naturalistic set, the scale and perspective are exactly as would be found in the real world. Also lots of attention has gone into the details to make the room look totally convincing.

Static Stage Design

- A Static Stage Design can be any of the above styles.
- This is the term used for when a play has one set that is used for the entire play and doesn't change at all throughout.
- With a static stage design the designer relies on lighting to show the audience that the scene is changing.



You can see in these two pictures that the basic set has not changed even though the pictures come from two different scenes within the same play.



Task 2 Questions

1. What is a minimalist stage design?

2. What colour is used more than any other in a minimalist stage design?

3. Why do theatre in the round spaces often use a minimalist set?

4. Why might a symbolic set be popular with a company's bank manager?

5. Are realistic sets an exact copy of reality?

6. What is a static stage?

TASK THREE

Read the following scene from Macbeth. In this scene three witches meet to cast their spells. Once you have read the scene answer the questions.

ACT I

SCENE I.

Thunder and lightning. Enter three witches .

First Witch

When shall we three meet again
In thunder, lightning, or in rain?

Second Witch

When the hurlyburly's done,
When the battle's lost and won.

Third Witch

That will be ere the set of sun.

First Witch

Where the place?

Second Witch

Upon the heath.

Third Witch

There to meet with Macbeth.

First Witch

I come, Graymalkin!

Second Witch

Paddock calls.

Third Witch

Anon.

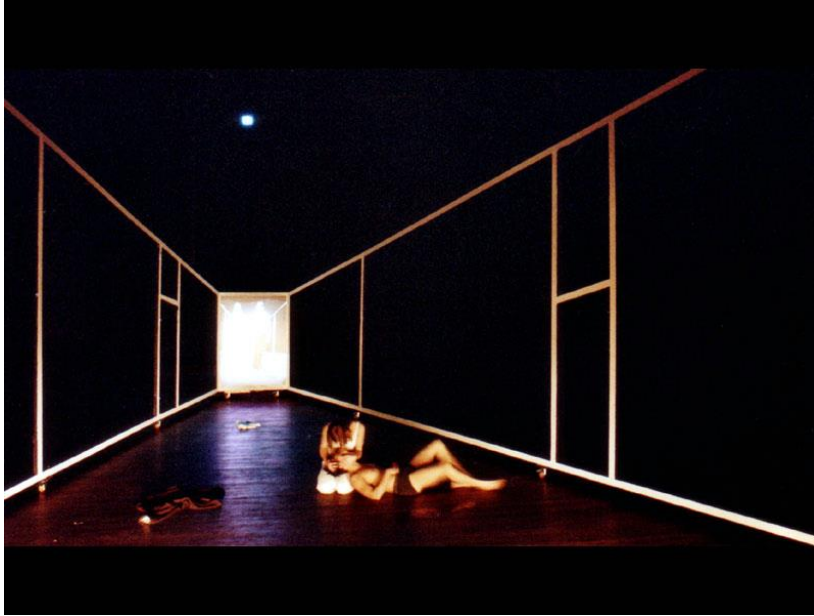
ALL

Fair is foul, and foul is fair:
Hover through the fog and filthy air.

They vanish into the air.

TASK FOUR

Today you need to come up with four rough set designs that could be used for this scene. Look at the colour photos below to give you some other ideas from different designers which might help with inspiration (though don't just copy their ideas). You need to do a separate design for an end-on stage, a theatre in the round space, and a traverse stage. The fourth design is YOUR choice of space. Use this space to create your rough designs.



Your four set designs

Which design do you like the best? Give three reasons why you like this design the best.

TASK FIVE

Use this sheet to do a final (neat) drawing of your final design. This should be done with a ruler, and should be in full colour.

Self Evaluation of my Homework

A Responsible Learner.....

- takes responsibility for their own learning
- listens to others
- works well as part of team

A Resilient Learner.....

- does not give up
- rises to the challenge
- has the motivation to succeed

A Reflective Learner.....

- evaluates their learning
- learns from their mistakes
- knows how they are performing and what they need to do to improve

A Resourceful Learner.....

- is prepared to learn
- uses initiative and knows how to find out
- is prepared to think outside the box

I am a R_____ learner.

I know this because:

I believe that my **effort and attitude to learning** for this booklet is a:

1	2	3	4
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I know this because:
