

LAMDA Acting Grade 7 Help Sheet Knowledge

In your LAMDA exam you will have to answer questions about your pieces. Knowledge accounts for 20% of the exam mark for grades 4, 5 & 6; and 25% for grade 7 & 8. Therefore, it is important you do your research.

The difference between a Pass, Merit and Distinction is as follows:

Pass: a general description

Merit: a secure description

Distinction: a *detailed* description of the knowledge

SO DO YOUR RESEARCH!

The best thing to do is write out the answers for each play and think about the following:

- **The charterers' objective in each scene performed** – do your objectives change, why do they feel this way, what has got them to this stage, what do they want to achieve, what is their ultimate goal (super objective) within the play, how do you achieve your objective (ACTIONS)
- **The character's role within the context of the play as a whole** – what is their purpose, what do they influence, what do they change, what does the character represent, are they a catalyst for what happens, how are they a part of the story.
- **How the writers style and period of writing influenced the performance of one of the chosen scenes** – think about historically what is happening, is there a political theme, what is the writer trying to say? Depending on when it is set how does that change the way it is played, is it more minimalistic, does the language influence how you perform, where are you, what are you wearing, and so on.

Grade 7 Example Answers:

Pass Answers: Taming of the Shrew

The charterers' objective: The character's objective is to prove she is a strong woman who can't be tamed.

The character's role within the context of the play: Katerina is a main part of the story and she is a key character for the development of the play and influences the storyline.

How the writers style and period of writing influenced the performance: Shakespeare's writing has influenced our performance as we made the characters larger than life and also used the language to create an artistic use of movement.

Distinction Answers: Taming of the Shrew

The charterers' objective: The character's objective is to prove she is a strong woman who can't be tamed. She does not want to be owned by Pertrutio and both use their intellect to try and get the better of one another. They go through a number of tactics to achieve their objectives such as flattery, witty exchange and insults. At this stage I do not believe that she is won over by Pertrutio, but I do believe they enjoy the experience. She is an incredibly headstrong if not stubborn character and throughout the play her objective remains until the very end of the play.

The character's role within the context of the play: The play is based around the two main characters of Katerina and Pertrutio therefore they are both an integral part of the story. They go

through an interesting journey together and as the story develops they also go through an emotional journey with one another. Explain more about the story, etc....

How the writers style and period of writing influenced the performance: Shakespeare has written this particular section of the play in blank verse; here is also a lot of word play between both characters. This proves that they are upper class, clever and on the same intellectual level as one another. Prose is usually left to the lower classes. The rhyming and word play is exciting, energised and highly comic and lends itself to movement as they push and pull one another. The play was written in 1593 when Queen Elizabeth was still on the throne and this would have sparked an amusing and interesting debate of the status of women, as during the time where men were only allowed to perform on stage. Although I would imagine this would have added to the comic effect. As it would have been performed at the Globe Theatre, movement would have been slightly larger than life and we tried to incorporate as much movement and use of the stage as possible. The language is fantastic, with lots of harsh consonants of k's, p's and t's within the verse which is used to dig at one another. Costume would have been a doublet and hose for Pertrutio and a heavy gown and sleeves for Katerina as they were both higher middles class. The language, theme and context has largely influenced how we have performed our scene.

Don't be afraid to ask me for help and remember that "good fortune comes to the well prepared."