

# Role of the Designer

In your exam you will be considering the Role of the Designer

You should discuss how you would use ONE design element to enhance your performance of the extract.

## **Designing a production**

Design has a huge impact on an audience's experience of a play as it's the first thing they see when the stage is revealed to them. The design provides essential information such as setting, period and the type of production you're seeing. There are a range of roles within theatre design which can cross over. There may be a team of designers working on a large scale production whilst smaller productions might only have one designer who works closely with the director. It's also important to consider the type

# PRODUCTION ELEMENTS

Costume	to indicate time period and / or status. Symbolic / Representational costume, e.g. costumes for the Birlings to represent wealthy middle-class background. These may be period or contemporary costume.
Sound	Live or recorded sound to create mood, atmosphere or highlight action on stage e.g. clock ticking. Music could be playing in the background. The crackle of a fire.
Props/ Stage Furniture	Props in the space or personal props that show the time period/ location or have a symbolic meaning. E.g. Inspector's notebook or the photograph of Eva Smith
Staging	<b>Really hard element to discuss</b> entrances and exits, awareness of audience and creating an appropriate space for performers and audience, e.g. sight lines, cross-section of house, complete living room.
Lighting	Colours in lights that show location/ mood / atmosphere. Discussion of naturalistic light e.g. light from the fire, chandelier or table lamps
Set	To indicate time period/ location or have symbolic meaning e.g., naturalistic elements of the set so the audience has clear indications about the Birling family status, room should demonstrate status and relationships

# Costume Design

## TERMINOLOGY

- **Style** – concept of the whole play and overall appearance
- **Period** – the time period/era the play is set in
- **Naturalistic** – accurate to the time period
- **Representational** – a single item that indicates a new character
- **Symbolic** – item or colour signals to the audience eg white for innocence
- **Character** – personality, status, wealth and confidence
- **Texture** – the feel of the fabric
- **Fabric** – silk, denim, fur, cotton, leather, voile etc
- **Break down** – make a costume appear shabby or dirty eg after a battle or a fight or a walk in the rain
- **Costume props** – Hat, shawl, umbrella, cane etc



### context

The factors surrounding a text that help us to understand it; the background events that help to explain something.

### costume

What a performer wears on stage.

### naturalistic

A form of theatre designed to create the illusion of reality for an audience. Originated in the late 19th century.

### silhouette

The outline shape of a costume on a performer.

### symbolic

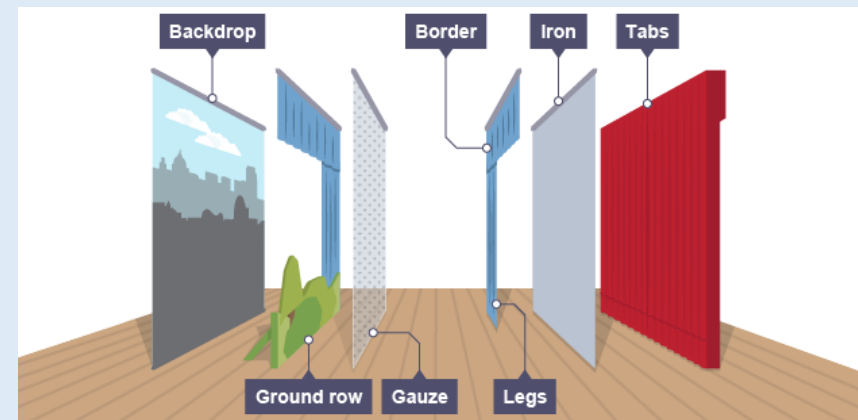
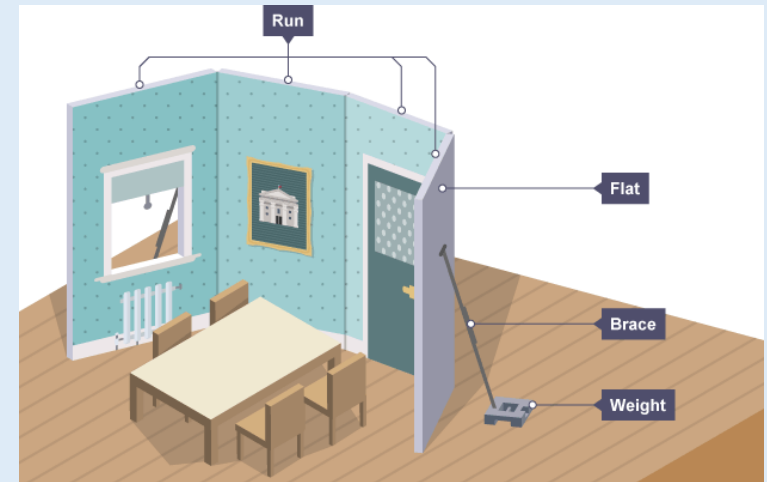
A symbol can represent an abstract idea, eg the colour red representing romance or a dove representing peace.

# Set Design

REVISE

## TERMINOLOGY

<b>backdrop</b>	A section at the back of the stage that can be painted or projected onto.
<b>flat</b>	Wood or framed canvas used to create a background for a performance.
<b>naturalistic</b>	A form of theatre designed to create the illusion of reality for an audience. Originated in the late 19th century.
<b>period</b>	A specific time in history.
<b>rostra</b>	A stationary platform for performers to stand on.
<b>set dressing</b>	Smaller items added to basic scenery to make it more detailed.
<b>wings</b>	The side areas that lead off the stage.
<b>minimalistic</b>	To minimise the use of set, props, costume etc in a production.
<b>symbol</b>	A person, object or idea that represents something else.
<b>trap door</b>	A removable panel within the stage floor.
<b>truck</b>	A moving stage platform.

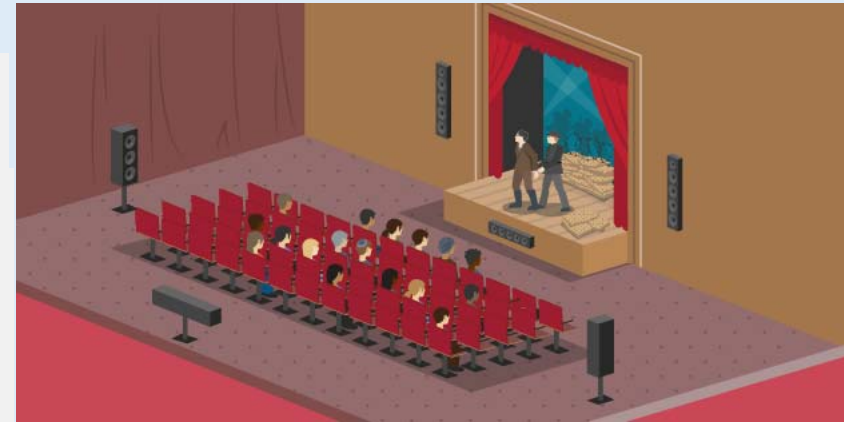


# Sound Design

REVISE

## TERMINOLOGY

<b>naturalistic</b>	A form of theatre designed to create the illusion of reality for an audience. Originated in the late 19th century.
<b>non-diegetic</b>	Sound that exists outside of the world of a play, eg narration.
<b>diegetic</b>	Sound the characters can hear within the world of a play, eg the radio.
<b>symbolic</b>	A symbol can represent an abstract idea, eg the colour red representing romance or a dove representing peace.
<b>pre-set</b>	Sound or music played prior to a performance.
<b>sound effect</b>	The artificial reproduction of sound.
<b>soundscape</b>	Place, time, mood and atmosphere can be created with recorded or live sound using instruments and/or the voices of the performers onstage.
<b>underscore</b>	The use of music under dialogue to help create an atmosphere or to convey a theme.
<b>amplification</b>	The process of increasing the reach of sound.
<b>amplifier</b>	A device that increases the volume of a sound.
<b>mix</b>	Layering of one or more sounds to make a soundscape.
<b>sourcing</b>	The locating of sound effects and music.
<b>surround sound</b>	A sound effect where the sound appears to surround the listener.



### Types of Sound:

**Live Sound/ Live Music**

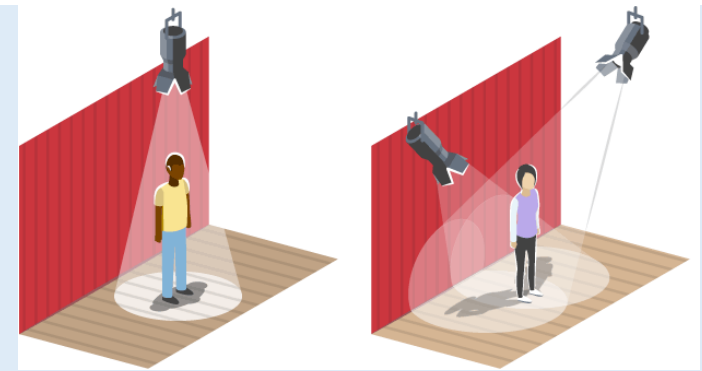
**Recorded Sound**

**Sound Effects**

**Music (to create atmosphere and mood)**

# REVISE

# Lighting Design



## TERMINOLOGY

<b>crossfade</b>	Where one lighting state is gradually altered to another.
<b>footlight</b>	A light at the front of the stage, almost on a level with the feet of the performers.
<b>gobo</b>	A stencil placed in a lantern to control the shape of the light.
<b>lantern</b>	The technical term for a stage light.
<b>lighting bar</b>	Metal tube that carries cables and supports the weight of the lights.
<b>naturalistic</b>	A form of theatre designed to create the illusion of reality for an audience. Originated in the late 19th century.
<b>snap</b>	Where one lighting state fully and quickly replaces the state before.
<b>special effect</b>	An illusion or visual trick.
<b>style</b>	How theatrical ideas are presented on stage.

<b>symbolic</b>	A symbol can represent an abstract idea, eg the colour red representing romance or a dove representing peace.
<b>theme</b>	Central, unifying idea(s) that run through a text.
<b>wash</b>	In lighting design, an even fill of light that illuminates the entire stage space.

### Types of Lights

**Spotlight**- small area lit

**Floodlight** –large general area lit

**Parcans** – narrower focus than

Floodlight but larger than

Spotlight

Direction of light	Effect on stage
Above	A beam of light shining down directly onto an actor will cast dramatic shadows.
Front	A beam of light in front of an actor will light them clearly - however, it may wash out their facial features.
Behind	A beam of light behind the actor will place them in silhouette so the audience will only see their outline.
Side	A lantern positioned in the wings will light the performers on stage without lighting anything else.



# Props & Stage Furniture Design

## TERMINOLOGY

<b>prop</b>	Any object used on set or stage. Can help to denote time, place, character and add to the drama, eg Macbeth's letter read by Lady Macbeth.
<b>sugar glass</b>	Material made out of sugar to mimic glass.
<b>symbolic</b>	A symbol can represent an abstract idea, eg the colour red representing romance or a dove representing peace.
<b>durability</b>	The ability of a material to withstand wear, especially as a result of weathering.
<b>minimalistic</b>	To minimise the use of set, props, costume etc in a production.
<b>stage furniture</b>	Large items that are not background scenery, eg chairs, tables or a piano.

