

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key: Your West End Debut: 6th Grade Playwriting Script Challenge

Synthesize complex dramatic elements across 10 advanced questions to master subtext, non-linear staging, and linguistic characterization in original theatrical works.

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**1. In Sophocles' 'Antigone', the protagonist's motivation directly clashes with Creon's decree. What term best describes the specific moment in a script where these opposing forces reach an irreversible breaking point?**

**Answer:** C) Climax

The climax is the structural peak of a play where the primary conflict is forced into a final confrontation that determines the outcome of the narrative arc.

**2. When a playwright includes a character speaking their inner thoughts aloud alone on stage to provide deep insight into their psyche, they are using a \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Answer:** B) Soliloquy

A soliloquy is a specific dramatic device used for character revelation where the character is alone (solo), distinguishing it from a monologue directed at other characters.

**3. True or False: In Bertolt Brecht's 'Epic Theatre', stage directions are often used specifically to distance the audience from the emotional reality of the characters to encourage critical thinking.**

**Answer:** A) True

This technique, known as the 'Verfremdungseffekt' or alienation effect, uses stagecraft to remind the audience they are watching a play, shifting the focus from emotion to social analysis.

**4. Which element of dialogue refers to the underlying meaning or unspoken agenda behind a character's literal words?**

**Answer:** C) Subtext

Subtext is critical in advanced playwriting; it allows characters to say one thing while meaning another, creating tension and depth in a scene.

**5. In a script, an instruction that dictates a character's physical reaction to a line, such as [She recoils in horror], is an example of \_\_\_\_\_.**

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**Answer:** C) Parentheticals

Parentheticals (or stage directions for actors) provide behavioral guidance to ensure the playwright's intended emotional impact is translated into performance.

**6. If you are writing a play using a 'Non-Linear' plot structure, like Caryl Churchill's 'Top Girls', how would your scenes most likely be organized?**

**Answer:** B) Through flashbacks, jumps in time, or dream sequences

Non-linear plots break traditional timelines to compare different eras or thematic parallels, requiring the audience to synthesize meaning from disjointed sequences.

**7. True or False: A character's 'Super Objective' is a minor goal they want to achieve in a single scene, such as getting a glass of water.**

**Answer:** B) False

A 'Super Objective' is the character's overarching goal through the entire play, while minor scene goals are simply called 'objectives' or 'intentions'.

**8. When a playwright uses dialogue to reveal necessary background information about the characters' pasts to the audience, this is known as \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Answer:** B) Exposition

Exposition is often difficult to write naturally; advanced playwrights weave it into active dialogue rather than relying on dry explanation.

**9. In Lorraine Hansberry's 'A Raisin in the Sun', the check for \$10,000 serves as a catalyst. In playwriting, a physical object that becomes central to the plot is often called a:**

**Answer:** B) Symbolic Prop

A symbolic prop represents a larger theme (like wealth or freedom) and drives character decisions, acting as more than just a background decoration.

**10. True or False: The 'Aristotelian' Unities of Drama suggest that a play should take place in a single location, over a single day, and follow one primary plot line.**

**Answer:** A) True

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These are known as the Unities of Time, Place, and Action, which were traditional standards for classical Greek drama and contrast with modern expansive staging.