**Assessment Task for Listening & Integrated Skills**

**Topic: Staging a Play**

***Question and Answer Book***

**Part A**

**Situation**

You are Rachel Leung, the secretary of the Drama Club at New Town College. You are attending a meeting with Michael, the chairperson, and two other members of the club committee, Sharon and William. They are discussing how to prepare for the next play they are going to put on.

Follow the instructions in the Question and Answer Book and on the recording to complete the tasks. You will find all the information you need in the Question and Answer Book and on the recording.

You now have two minutes to familiarise yourself with the situation and the tasks.

**Task 1 (22 marks)**

You will listen to a meeting of the Drama Club where the committee members are discussing some details of the next play they are going to put on. Complete the information as you listen.

You will have 30 seconds to study the task. At the end of the task, you will have two minutes to tidy up your answers.

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| **Play title** | **Pros** | **Cons** |
| Sam Wong’s Bad Day | * very funny * quite a lot of (1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ parts * simple costumes and props | * contains some Cantonese * (2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * might seem disrespectful to some people |
| The Life of Mozart | * lovely music of Mozart * (3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ value * interesting scenes * plenty of variety | * expensive (4) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   * problems with the sets and scenery * few (5) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ parts |
| Final Thoughts | * simple to (6) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * important themes | * very few characters * puts a lot of stress on   (7) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   * may bore some people * may be too (8) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Sherlock Holmes’ New Case | * (9) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ script * popular stories * medium number of actors * nothing too (10) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ needed for staging * good balance of male and female parts | * a (11) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ story won last year * not original enough |

1. Record the members’ votes. Use ticks to show which play each person votes for.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Sharon** | **Rachel** | **William** | **Michael** |
| Sam Wong’s Bad Day |  |  |  |  |
| The Life of Mozart |  |  |  |  |
| Final Thoughts |  |  |  |  |
| Sherlock Holmes’ New Case |  |  |  |  |

1. Write the name of the student chosen to do each job under the appropriate picture.

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1. At the end of the meeting Sharon asks a question. What is her attitude to Michael’s answer? Circle the letter.

a. surprised b. angry c. pleased d. accepting e. puzzled

**Task 2 (19 marks)**

Michael has been given a recording of a radio talk for secondary school students on how to be a good actor. He has taken some notes on the talk to help prepare a similar one for new members of the club interested in getting parts in the next school play. The notes are incomplete and you need to listen to the recording and complete them for him.

You now have 30 seconds to study the note sheet. At the end of the task, you will have one minute to tidy up your answers.

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| **How to be a good actor**  Two feelings on being chosen for a play: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Reasons for the two feelings: it’s an honour and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  What a good actor should do:   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | Rules/advice | Reasons | | Behaviour | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for rehearsals.  Come with your script and a pencil.  Take some homework to do in silence  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | It wastes time if you are not.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Searching for you wastes time. | | Treatment of other actors | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with everyone.  Never tell an actor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  Don’t help an actor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  Be helpful. | Bad feelings \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  You are not the director.  This avoids \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  It makes rehearsals \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. | | Acting | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and try to be the person you are playing.  Prepare \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_so the director can choose.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |   How to handle nervousness:  *(Match the pieces of advice in the box against the following four successful actors by putting the correct number on the lines provided)*   |  | | --- | | 1. Engaging in physical activities 2. Having some peace and quiet 3. Forgetting about the play until the last moment 4. Taking a deep breath |   The speaker’s teacher: \_\_\_\_\_\_  Julie Robbins: \_\_\_\_\_\_  Tom Wilkes: \_\_\_\_\_\_  Ken Tanaka: \_\_\_\_\_\_ |

**Part B**

**Situation**

You will listen to a recording of a meeting in which Michael, the chairperson, and two committee members, Sharon and William, are discussing various matters about the drama club. You need to keep records of what they decide.

Before the recording is played, you will have five minutes to study the Question and Answer Book and the Data File to familiarise yourself with the situation and the tasks. Complete the tasks by following the instructions in the Question and Answer Book and on the recording. You will find all the information you need in the Question and Answer Book, the Data File and on the recording. As you listen you can make notes on pages 2 and 3 of the Data File.

You now have five minutes to familiarise yourself with the Question and Answer Book and the Data File.

**Task 3 A parts chart (22 marks)**

You are attending a meeting about choosing actors for parts in the play. Fill in the boxes below to produce a parts chart using information from the Data File and your notes.

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| **Name** | **Part** | **Pros** | **Cons** |
| Leo Au |  | * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Sissy Chung |  | * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Mickey Lai |  | * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Tracy So |  | * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Jeff Wong |  | * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

**Task 4 An application essay (24 marks)**

Write an essay in support of the application for the Y S Lee Grant using information from the Data File and your notes.

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**END OF QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK**

***Suggested Answers and Transcripts***

**Suggested Answers to Task 1 (22 marks)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Play title** | **Pros** | **Cons** |
| Sam Wong’s Bad Day | * very funny * quite a lot of (1) non-speaking parts * simple costumes and props | * contains some Cantonese * (2) shortish/short * might seem disrespectful to some people |
| The Life of Mozart | * lovely music of Mozart * (3) cultural value * interesting scenes * plenty of variety | * expensive (4) costumes * problems with the sets and scenery * few (5) female parts |
| Final Thoughts | * simple to (6) stage * important themes | * very few characters * puts a lot of stress on (7) the main actor * may bore some people * may be too (8) long |
| Sherlock Holmes’ New Case | * (9) clever script * popular stories * medium number of actors * nothing too (10) complicated needed for staging * good balance of male and female parts | * a (11) detective story won last year * not original enough |

(12) Record the members’ votes. Use ticks to show which play each person votes for.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Sharon** | **Rachel** | **William** | **Michael** |
| Sam Wong’s Bad Day |  |  |  |  |
| The Life of Mozart | ✓ |  |  |  |
| Final Thoughts |  |  |  |  |
| Sherlock Holmes’ New Case |  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

(13) Write the name of the student chosen to do each job under the appropriate picture.

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|  |  |  |
| Fay Wong | Ben Chen | Roger Lee |
|  |  |  |
| Amy Cheung | Simon Lam | Mary Chan |

(14) At the end of the meeting Sharon asks a question. What is her attitude to Michael’s answer?

a. surprised **b. angry** c. pleased d. accepting e. puzzled

**Transcript for Task 1**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Announcer** | **:** | You are Rachel Leung, the secretary of the Drama Club at New Town College. You are attending a meeting with Michael, the chairperson, and two other members of the club committee, Sharon and William. They are discussing how to prepare for the next play they are going to put on.    Follow the instructions in the Question and AnswerBook and on the recording to complete the tasks. You will find all the information you need in the Question and AnswerBook and on the recording. You now have two minutes to familiarise yourself with the situation and the tasks. |  |
| ***(2 minutes of music)***  **Announcer :** You will listen to a meeting of the Drama Club where the committee members are discussing some details of the next play they are going to put on. Complete the information as you listen.  You will have 30 seconds to study the task. At the end of the task, you will have two minutes to tidy up your answers.  ***(30 seconds of music)*** | | |  |
| **Michael** | **:** | Thank you for coming to today’s meeting. I am sorry Andy cannot be here as he has an inter-class football match this afternoon. Anyway, let’s get to business. Although it is months away, it is time to start planning for our entry for the Inter-School Drama Competition. I hope you have read the four shortlisted play scripts I emailed you. Today I would like us to choose one. So let’s start by discussing the points in favour of and against each one. Rachel, I hope you are going to take notes. |  |
| **Rachel** | **:** | Yes, pen at the ready. |  |
| **Sharon** | **:** | Well, I am not so sure about Sam Wong’s Bad Day. There’s quite a lot of Cantonese in it. Of course, that’s part of the humour but as we are entering an English play competition, will we be breaking the rules? I certainly think we might lose some points. What do you think, William? |  |
| **William** | **:** | Yes, I thought the same as I read it, but it is very funny. |  |
| **Michael** | **:** | Yes, it’s really funny – I couldn’t stop laughing. |  |
| **Sharon** | **:** | I agree it’s funny but I still think there’ll be a problem with it. Save it for a school performance. And anyway, isn’t it shortish? | ***Q2*** |
| **Michael** | **:** | Yes, I am afraid it might be. |  |
| **Rachel** | **:** | There are a lot of non-speaking parts. I mean, that’s good so members who aren’t good actors can still appear on stage. | ***Q1*** |
| **Sharon** | **:** | Non-speaking parts? |  |
| **Rachel** | **:** | Yes, there are plenty of school scenes with classmates in the background while Sam gets into trouble with others. |  |
| **Michael** | **:** | Also, a play set in a school nowadays means only simple and easy-to-get costumes and props are needed. |  |
| **William** | **:** | OK, the simple costumes and props are a plus but some of the scenes are a bit risky. You know, one of the teachers in the play is really stupid, so it might seem disrespectful to some people. |  |
| **Michael** | **:** | Disrespectful, short and full of Cantonese – I don’t think we’ll be choosing this one. | ***Q2*** |
| **Sharon** | **:** | I love The Life of Mozart. Number one is the lovely music of Mozart... |  |
| **Rachel** | **:** | …which adds some cultural value to the play. | ***Q3*** |
| **William** | **:** | I didn’t think anyone would support The Life of Mozart. The costumes would be expensive – all those beautiful old suits, and the sets and scenery would be a problem. There are too many different scenes – with Mozart as a child giving a concert, Mozart meeting the Emperor, and lots more. | ***Q4*** |
| **Rachel** | **:** | But the scenes are so interesting and there is plenty of variety. |  |
| **Michael** | **:** | Interesting scenes and plenty of variety. I agree, but I think it is beyond anything we can stage. And I am surprised you aren’t pointing out there are few female parts. | ***Q5*** |
| **Rachel** | **:** | Well, yes, that is a disadvantage. We will have more boys than girls on the stage then. |  |
| **Michael** | **:** | What then about Final Thoughts? It would be simple to stage and the themes of dying and what makes a good life are important ones. | ***Q6*** |
| **William** | **:** | Simple to stage because it has very few characters. That wouldn’t please the club members and it puts a lot of stress on the main actor. | ***Q7*** |
| **Sharon** | **:** | And frankly it might bore some people. |  |
| **Rachel** | **:** | I enjoy reading it, but isn’t it too long? | ***Q8*** |
| **Michael** | **:** | Yes, I think we’d have to find ways to cut it. |  |
| **William** | **:** | So we come to Sherlock’s Holmes’ New Case. It’s brilliant! |  |
| **Sharon** | **:** | No, definitely not – a detective story won last year, so I really don’t think a detective story will win this year. Choosing it would mean we cannot win. | ***Q11*** |
| **Michael** | **:** | But this is a clever script. The judges won’t worry about last year. | ***Q9*** |
| **William** | **:** | And Sherlock Holmes’ stories are very popular with most people. |  |
| **Rachel** | **:** | It is about right in terms of the number of actors – a medium number – not too many and not too few. And there’s nothing too complicated needed for staging. Its strength is its script. | ***Q10*** |
| **Sharon** | **:** | It’s not original enough. In fact, it’s unoriginal. |  |
| **William** | **:** | And it has good male and female parts – nicely balanced. |  |
| **Michael** | **:** | Well, I can tell we aren’t all going to agree on the choice of play so I think we’d better have a vote. |  |
| **Rachel** | **:** | OK, I’ll record the votes. |  |
| **Michael** | **:** | Sharon? |  |
| **Sharon** | **:** | The Life of Mozart. Rachel, what do you think? | ***Q12*** |
| **Rachel** | **:** | I was going to vote for Sam Wong’s Bad Day, but I guess it doesn’t stand a chance. I’ll vote for Sherlock. William, are you with me on this? | ***Q12*** |
| **William** | **:** | Yes, it’s a pity about the Sam Wong play, but we can still perform it some time. I’ve said the Mozart isn’t possible, so I vote for Sherlock. Michael, have your say! | ***Q12*** |
| **Michael** | **:** | Well, I’d choose Sherlock too. So detectives win. Let’s move straight on to deciding some of the key people for the play. Will you all take a look at this? It’s a form for announcing our choices for some of the big jobs. | ***Q12*** |
| **Sharon** | **:** | So the first picture is for the director? |  |
| **Rachel** | **:** | Doesn’t that look more like a film director’s chair? |  |
| **Michael** | **:** | Yes, but don’t be too fussy. People will understand. |  |
| **William** | **:** | So the top row is director, music and sound. |  |
| **Sharon** | **:** | Does sound mean sound effects or the sound system? |  |
| **Chairman:** | **:** | Both actually! |  |
| **Rachel** | **:** | Let me guess the second row. Costumes, lighting and…. |  |
| **William** | **:** | Aliens? |  |
| **Michael** | **:** | Ha ha…props of course. A spaceman’s helmet is a typical prop. |  |
| **William** | **:** | Yes, I suppose it is. |  |
| **Rachel** | **:** | Well, I can also guess Amy Cheung is going to be in charge of costumes. | ***Q13*** |
| **Michael** | **:** | Yes, we must have Amy. She is our regular costume manager. Please fill in the names for us, Rachel. |  |
| **Sharon** | **:** | I think we agreed before that the play would be directed by Fay Wong. Will she like the choice of script? | ***Q13*** |
| **Michael** | **:** | Yes, she has read it and she likes it. |  |
| **Sharon**  **Rachel**  **Sharon** | **:**  **:**  **:** | So Fay Wong is the right choice.  OK. Is Fay spelt F-a-y-e or just F-a-y?  Should be without an ‘e’ at the end. |  |
| **Rachel** | **:** | Alright. So who’s going to do the music? |  |
| **Michael** | **:** | I think we should follow William’s advice on that. |  |
| **William** | **:** | Ben Chen is keen to do it. Rachel, that’s c-h-e-n, Ben Chen. He’s new to the school this year and he has a lot of talent we can use. But please don’t let Kenny Hung do the sound again. He’s rather disorganised. | ***Q13*** |
| **Michael** | **:** | Oh, if it’s not going to be Kenny, then maybe Roger Lee. | ***Q13*** |
| **Sharon** | **:** | Yes, he is calm and knows what he is doing. And, Rachel, he spells Lee with a double e. |  |
| **Rachel** | **:** | What about props then? Simon Lam? |  |
| **Michael** | **:** | No, he’s asked if he can do lighting. |  |
| **Rachel** | **:** | Okay, if Simon Lam takes over lighting, we need a props manager. | ***Q13*** |
| **Michael** | **:** | Hmm…maybe his assistant, Mary Chan? | ***Q13*** |
| **Sharon** | **:** | Yes, Mary is very helpful and good at making things. |  |
| **Michael** | **:** | Well, that’s probably enough for today. Casting will be next, but we need our director and advisor for that. |  |
| **Sharon** | **:** | Before we end, I have a serious question. |  |
| **Michael** | **:** | Ask away. |  |
| **Sharon** | **:** | Are we going to give parts to loyal old members of the club or choose only on the basis of talent? |  |
| **Michael** | **:** | Can’t we do a bit of both? I mean, we are entering a competition and we want to do well. We certainly don’t want to embarrass the school with a bad performance. So for the big parts we must choose the best actors. But we can think about things like being a member for many years and always coming to meetings and helping as much as possible when we choose smaller parts, stage hands and so on. |  |
| **Sharon**  **(sounding coldly angry)** | **:** | Typical. Winning is more important than cultural values or people’s feelings. Some of the stars only act for their own glory and don’t help at all at other times! | ***Q14*** |
| **William**  **(dismissively)** | **:** | Sometimes I think Sharon lives in a different world from the rest of us. |  |
| **Rachel** | **:** | Come on, Sharon does have a point. |  |
| **Michael**  **Announcer** | **:**  **:** | Sharon, let’s go and have a drink in the canteen and we’ll talk some more. (fade out)  This is the end of Task 1. You now have two minutes to tidy up your answers. |  |
| ***(2 minutes of music)*** | | |  |

**Suggested Answers to Task 2 (19 marks)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **How to be a good actor**  Two feelings on being chosen for a play: (1) Proud and frightened  Reasons for the two feelings: it’s an honour and (2) one bad actor can spoil everything.  What a good actor should do:   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | Rules/advice | Reasons | | Behaviour | (3) Be on time for rehearsals.  Come with your script and a pencil.  Take some homework to do in silence.  (6) Always stay close by. | It wastes time if you are not.  (4) There may be changes to note.  (5) Noise disturbs actors.  Searching for you wastes time. | | Treatment of other actors | (7) Get on well with everyone.  Never tell an actor (9) how to play their part.  Don’t help an actor (10) with their lines.  Be helpful. | Bad feelings (8) cause mistakes.  You are not the director.  This avoids (11) confusion.  It makes rehearsals (12) more fun. | | Acting | (13) Study your part and try to be the person you are playing.  Prepare (14) two ways of doing each scene so the director can choose.  (15) Obey the director. |  | |

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| How to handle nervousness:  *(Match the pieces of advice in the box against the following four successful actors by putting the correct number on the lines provided)*   |  | | --- | | 1. Engaging in physical activities 2. Having some peace and quiet 3. Forgetting about the play until the last moment 4. Taking a deep breath |   The speaker’s teacher: 4  Julie Robbins: 1  Tom Wilkes: 3  Ken Tanaka: 2 |

**Transcript for Task 2**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Announcer** | **:** | Michael has been given a recording of a radio talk for secondary school students on how to be a good actor. He has taken some notes on the talk to help prepare a similar one for new members of the club interested in getting parts in the next school play. The notes are incomplete and you need to listen to the recording and complete them for him.  You now have 30 seconds to study the note sheet. At the end of the task, you will have one minute to tidy up your answers. |  |
| ***(30 seconds of music)*** | | |  |
| **Michael**  **Announcer** | **:**  **:** | Being chosen to act in a play is quite an honour. You can rightly feel proud, but you should also feel a bit frightened. A play is just like a basketball game. Success only follows if every member of the team works together. One bad player or one bad actor can spoil everything**.** So how can you make sure you are doing a good job and helping the entire cast to stage a good performance?  First there is the matter of behaviour. I have four simple rules here. One - be on time for rehearsals. There’s a lot to do and you must not waste time**,** especially other people’s time - which is what you are doing if you are late. Two - come with your script and a pencil. Rehearsals are practices and practices often lead to changes and you need to be ready to make a note of them. Three -it’s important actors are not disturbed so take some homework to do in silence when you are not wanted on stage. Four - stay very close by - the director may suddenly need you and it wastes time if you have to be searched for.  Second we come to the way you treat other actors. My first piece of advice is that you must get on well with everyone in the play. Bad feelings cause mistakes. Dislikes must be hidden and no arguments allowed. Then, you must never tell another actor how to play their part. You are not the director and your opinion on other actors is not wanted. Keep it to yourself. Next, in order to avoid confusion, please don’t help an actor with their lines. It’s not your job and if two people try to do it, it is confusing. Finally, you should always be helpful. If everyone is helpful, rehearsals are much more fun.  Thirdly, I do have something to say about acting. Study your part and try to be the person you are playing. Think about the character carefully and prepare two ways of doing each scene so the director can choose. And you must obey the director. As a teacher needs pupils, a leader needs…well, I will let you finish that for yourself, but make sure you follow instructions.  The last topic I want to mention is nerves. Being nervous is normal for actors, but as an actor you must learn to handle it. I want to read you advice on this from four successful actors.  The first is what my own wise old teacher advised:  ‘My custom is to breathe very deeply almost like a dog panting on a very hot day - I push the air out strongly four or five times and it really relaxes me.’  This is what the famous actress, Julie Robbins, says and it is very common advice:  ‘I do get nervous once in a while and I handle it by being very active. I might run in place, swing my arms about or dance wildly about. It soon takes away the stress. And I don’t worry about the other actors - many do strange things just before going on stage.’  Here’s some amazing advice from Tom Wilkes:  ‘Go and eat and only arrive at the theatre at the last moment. Just don’t think about the play. Enjoy yourself.’  And I end with the much more sensible Ken Tanaka:  ‘Nervousness means a lack of peace. Stand still, close your eyes and concentrate on a picture in the mind of calm water, the sea or a large lake. Shut out the noise and worry and become calm yourself.’  That’s inspiring!  This is the end of Task 2. You now have one minute to tidy up your answers.  ***(1 minute of music)*** | ***Reasons***  ***Two feelings***  ***Reasons***    **Behaviour**  **Treatment of other actors**      **Acting**  **Advice on handling nervousness** |

**Suggested Answers to Task 3 (22 marks)**

|  |  |  |  |
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| **Name** | **Part** | **Pros** | **Cons** |
| Leo Au | Victor (listening) | * our best actor (listening) * handsome/good-looking (listening/DF 3) | * has starred too often/many times (listening) * busy with the Badminton Team (DF 2) |
| Sissy Chung | Helen (listening) | * very enthusiastic (listening) | * often forgets lines (DF 3) |
| Mickey Lai | Max (listening) | * big and strong (listening) * good at villain’s parts (DF 4) | * warned about academic results (listening) * often loses his voice (DF 3) |
| Tracy So | Helen (listening) | * acts with passion (DF 4) * never makes a mistake (listening) | * inexperienced (listening) * short-tempered (listening) |
| Jeff Wong | Max (listening) | * good at building up team spirit (listening) | * looks so nice and responsible (listening) * too busy as head boy (listening) |

**Suggested Answers to Task 4 (24 marks)**

*Task Completion: 17 marks*

1. The New Town School Drama Club has doubled in size over the past 5 years (DF 6)
2. and now has 186 members (DF 6)
3. Last year we put on full plays (DF 7)
4. and shorter pieces/plays (DF 7)
5. We also performed brief plays in morning assemblies (DF 7)
6. We take part in the Hong Kong Schools Drama Festival (DF 9)
7. We are also active participants in the HK Schools Speech and Drama Festival. (DF 10)
8. The main categories chosen by our students are Improvised Dramatic Scenes, Solo Dramatic Performance and Dramatic Scenes (DF 10)
9. We have aroused students’ interest in drama and our productions are often sell-outs (DF 11)
10. In the last few years, the school has sent students to the APA (listening)
11. Apart from selling tickets to some productions (DF 8)
12. we hold a fair every November to raise money (DF 8)
13. We plan to spend any money we are granted on obtaining professional coaching (listening)
14. improving the stage sound system (listening)
15. buying a smoke machine (listening)
16. and subsidising theatre tickets (DF 11/listening)
17. Dr Henry Black, Professor of Drama at HKU has agreed to be our referee (listening)

*Language: 5 marks*

*Coherence and Organisation: 2 marks*

**Transcript for Tasks 3 & 4**

**Announcer:**

You will listen to a recording of a meeting in which Michael, the chairperson, and two committee members, Sharon and William, are discussing various matters about the drama club. You need to keep records of what they decide.

Before the recording is played, you will have five minutes to study the Question and AnswerBook and the Data File to familiarise yourself with the situation and the tasks. Complete the tasks by following the instructions in the Question and AnswerBook and on the recording. You will find all the information you need in the Question and AnswerBook, the Data File and on the recording. As you listen you can make notes on pages 2 and 3 of the Data File.

You now have five minutes to familiarise yourself with the Question and AnswerBook and the Data File.

***(5 minutes of music)***

The recording is about to begin. Turn to pages 2 and 3 of the Data File.

**Michael:**

The year has gone really well so far so we must end it with a really popular play. I think Blood Love is a really good script. Arthur, who is going to direct it, is one of our best, and the topic is likely to be popular with the students. So now we need to make sure we have an excellent cast. I think Arthur should make the final decision, but with our advice and suggestions too. There are five actors who are available and have a lot of talent. Look at this chart I have prepared for each of you. I have already put down their names in the first column. Rachel’s going to keep notes and put together a final version based on our discussion and some other information we will collect. As you can see, we need to suggest parts suitable for the actors, meaning which character in the story they will be, and to help Arthur by noting down their strengths, and the reasons for giving or not giving them the part.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sharon** | **:** | I do agree Blood Love is good. I’d like to be the female star myself! |  |
| **Michael** | **:** | I am sure you’d do it very well too. |  |
| **William** | **:** | Well, let’s start with the part of Helen. Who do you have in mind? | **Task 3 - Sissy Chung** |
| **Michael** | **:** | Sissy Chung. |  |
| **William** | **:** | She is certainly very enthusiastic. | **Task 3 - Sissy Chung** |
| **Sharon** | **:** | Yes, her enthusiasm is a great plus. Directors love enthusiastic actors. But I hope you are also going to consider Tracy So. | **Task 3 - Tracy So** |
| **Michael** | **:** | Yes, she is my other suggestion. |  |
| **William** | **:** | Isn’t Tracy too inexperienced? | **Task 3 - Tracy So** |
| **Sharon** | **:** | She certainly is rather inexperienced. It’s not a great problem but I agree it is a disadvantage. |  |
| **William** | **:** | Well, I can think of another point against Tracy. I’m sorry to say it but she is short-tempered. | **Task 3 - Tracy So** |
| **Sharon** | **:** | Oh dear, poor Tracy. But I do understand what you mean – when you tell her she isn’t doing something right she can get angry. |  |
| **Michael** | **:** | But let’s be fair to her – she never makes a mistake. | **Task 3 - Tracy So** |
| **William** | **:** | No, never – she learns her part and remembers exactly what actions are needed. |  |
| **Sharon** | **:** | Well, never making a mistake is definitely a good point. |  |
| **Michael** | **:** | Let’s leave it at that. I think we will need extra information before a choice between them is possible. |  |
| **William** | **:** | Actually one important point is who is going to play the hero. The two fall in love so the two actors must seem to suit each other. |  |
| **Sharon** | **:** | Surely there’s no doubt Leo Au will play Victor. | **Task 3 - Leo Au** |
| **William** | **:** | But hasn’t he starred too often? |  |
| **Sharon** | **:** | He certainly has starred too many times. I think we should give others a chance. | **Task 3 - Leo Au** |
| **Michael** | **:** | But that’s because he’s the best actor we have. | **Task 3 - Leo Au** |
| **William** | **:** | I do agree – he is very good. |  |
| **Sharon** | **:** | And he is very handsome and the script makes it clear Victor is very handsome too. | **Task 3 - Leo Au** |
| **Michael** | **:** | So Leo, despite having starred too often, gets the part unless Arthur has any objections. |  |
| **William** | **:** | What part are you thinking of for Mickey Lai? | **Task 3 - Mickey Lai** |
| **Michael** | **:** | Well, I am not 100% sure he can have any part. There is a problem: he has been warned about his academic results so he, his family or his form teacher may be against him taking part. But I was thinking of Max. | **Task 3 - Mickey Lai** |
| **William** | **:** | Mickey is big and strong, and that’s good for Max. Max needs to look powerful – big and strong is just right. | **Task 3 - Mickey Lai** |
| **Sharon** | **:** | Who is the alternative if he doesn’t want a part? |  |
| **Michael** | **:** | I think Jeff Wong. | **Task 3 - Jeff Wong** |
| **William** | **:** | Jeff Wong?! But he looks so nice and responsible! | **Task 3 - Jeff Wong** |
| **Sharon** | **:** | He is so nice and responsible – that’s why he is the head boy. |  |
| **Michael** | **:** | And of course, as the head boy, he may be too busy to join in. | **Task 3 - Jeff Wong** |
| **William** | **:** | I cannot see such a nice and responsible guy as a powerful evil vampire. |  |
| **Sharon** | **:** | Jeff is really great at building up team spirit – the play would be better with him in it. | **Task 3 - Jeff Wong** |
| **Michael** | **:** | Yes, team spirit is his big talent. Maybe with help we could teach him to look evil. |  |
| **William** | **:** | So it’s Mickey or Jeff. |  |
| **Sharon** | **:** | It doesn’t seem we have got very far today – other than choosing Leo Au. |  |
| **Michael** | **:** | Well, as I said we will get some more information and Rachel will add points. I’ll let you see the updated version when it’s ready for Arthur. |  |
| **William** | **:** | Are we going to talk about the Y S Lee Grant? |  |
| **Michael** | **:** | Yes, this is a really big opportunity for us. One of their grants can be very large and generous and I think we stand a good chance of getting one. We need to send a 200-word application essay covering quite a few points. Rachel is going to write it for us. Rachel, you are going to have to word things very sharply and give just the right evidence and examples without going into too much detail if you are going to cover all the points in so few words. We have to show we are a big, active club which has accumulated substantial experiences in staging plays. |  |
| **Sharon** | **:** | What does that mean? |  |
| **Michael** | **:** | We can give some examples of the types of play we have put on. | **Task 4 (3)-(5)** |
| **William** | **:** | And those out-of-school drama events we have taken part in. | **Task 4 (6)-(8)** |
| **Michael** | **:** | Yes, indeed. And have we increased the interest in drama in the school? Have we made efforts to raise money, and do we know what we want the grant for? I think we can answer yes to all the questions. We have started putting together the facts, but we’d also welcome any ideas from you for our application. Rachel is putting it together now. Here are copies of the advertisement. |  |
| **Sharon** | **:** | Obviously we have clear plans on how we would use the grant. There are lots of things we want to do. |  |
| **William** | **:** | Yes, we need money to pay for professional coaching. We cannot rely on Thomas all the time. It isn’t fair to him. | **Task 4 (13)** |
| **Sharon** | **:** | But professional coaching isn’t cheap so we need a grant. |  |
| **William** | **:** | And the school says if we want to have a really good sound system on the stage for drama performances, we will have to find ways to pay for it. |  |
| **Sharon** | **:** | So coaching and improving the stage sound system are the main points. Oh, and I nearly forgot the smoke machine. If we could cover the stage with smoke from dry ice, we could do wonderful winter scenes. We must buy a smoke machine! And I think there is something else too, but I forget what. | **Task 4 (14)**  **Task 4 (15)** |
| **Michael** | **:** | Do you remember we have received a proposal from an S6 student? The idea about offering subsidised theatre tickets sounds good to me. | **Task 4 (16)** |
| **William** | **:** | Yes, we could include it in the application essay. When you think of the ways in which we have been successful in raising an interest in drama in the school, don’t forget to mention that in the last few years quite a few New Town students have gone to the APA, Academy for Performing Arts. I don’t think many schools do that – and almost all of them are interested in theatre of some sort or another. | **Task 4 (10)** |
| **Sharon** | **:** | Yes, our club has really increased interest in theatre and the performing arts. |  |
| **Michael** | **:** | Good point. |  |
| **William** | **:** | Did you contact Dr Black about being our referee? |  |
| **Michael** | **:** | Oh yes, I nearly forgot. Just a moment – let me read you a copy of his email to the principal.  Dear Mrs Yu,  I have in recent years worked with a large number of schools, especially of course in relation to my department’s Drama Outreach Programme, which encourages the use of theatre in schools and also my research into the most effective ways to do this in the local context. However, I can truly say one of the schools I most enjoyed visiting was yours. Your own welcome and the enthusiasm of the drama club members made every visit I made to your school something special. In addition, your experience and the comments of your students helped greatly in our research work. Thus, I am more than happy to act as a referee for the club and wish it all the best in obtaining a Y S Lee Grant.  Yours sincerely,  Henry Black, Professor of Drama |  |
| **William** | **:** | Excellent – so we can write ‘Dr Henry Black, Professor of Drama at HKU has agreed to be our referee.’ |  |
| **Sharon** | **:** | That sounds nice – say it again slowly for Rachel. |  |
| **William** | **:** | Dr Henry Black, Professor of Drama at HKU has agreed to be our referee. | **Task 4 (17)** |
| **Michael** | **:** | I am sure our application essay will be a good one. Let’s hope it will be effective. |  |
| **William** | **:** | Yes, with a big grant we could put on even better plays. |  |
| **Sharon** | **:** | Yes, one day it’ll be Shakespeare! |  |
| **Michael**  **Announcer** | **:** | Thanks for all your help. Now it’s over to our hardworking Rachel to complete the parts chart and the application essay.  That’s the end of the listening component. You will have one hour and fifteen minutes to complete the written tasks. |  |
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**END OF SUGGESTED ANSWERS AND TRANSCRIPTS**