



# RCM Examinations

## Speech Arts Technical Theory Level 3 Sample Exam

Unless otherwise indicated, answer all questions directly on the examination paper in the spaces provided.

Confirmation Number

Maximum Marks

10

1. Briefly define **FIVE** of the following terms.

Demographic analysis \_\_\_\_\_

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Empathy \_\_\_\_\_

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Chronological organization \_\_\_\_\_

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Caesura \_\_\_\_\_

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Blocking \_\_\_\_\_

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Central Idea \_\_\_\_\_

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# Speech Arts Technical Theory Level 3

## Sample Exam

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2. a. Mark each of the following statements as True (T) or False (F).

- When actors move towards centre stage, they are moving onstage.
- The large muscle used for inhalation is called the diaphragm.
- The stage manager is responsible for admitting, seating, and providing for the general comfort of the audience.
- One strategy to control speaking anxiety is to avoid eye contact with your audience.
- Given circumstances are anything set forth by the writer or director that must be adhered to by the actor.
- A line of six feet is called heptameter.
- People who work in the theatre do so because most of the jobs are highly paid.
- Acting styles and methods have remained relatively the same throughout history.
- Keeping to the assigned time limit is important when you give a speech.
- An actor should always find errands to do on stage.

continued....

# Speech Arts Technical Theory Level 3

## Sample Exam

### Question 2 continued

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b. Choose the answer which best completes **EACH** of the following statements by placing the appropriate letter in the space provided.

\_\_\_\_\_ The traditional theatre space that features the audience on only one side of the performance area is the

- a. thrust
- b. found space
- c. black box
- d. proscenium

\_\_\_\_\_ If an actor moves upstage of another actor, they are said to be

- a. moving below the actor
- b. moving above the actor
- c. moving behind the actor
- d. crossing vertically

\_\_\_\_\_ The best organizational pattern for a speech on how to bake a cake would be

- a. spatial
- b. topical
- c. problem/solution
- d. chronological

\_\_\_\_\_ The best technique for memorizing lines is to use

- a. a tape recorder
- b. repeated rehearsals
- c. mnemonic devices
- d. block learning

\_\_\_\_\_ Stadium-like entrances through the audience (first developed by the Romans) and often found in thrust or arena theatres, are called

- a. traps
- b. vomitories
- c. facades
- d. crossovers

Speech Arts Technical Theory Level 3  
Sample Exam

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20

3. Transcribe the following into phonetic script, using the IPA symbols provided in the RCM Syllabus. Write your transcription on the lines provided on this page.

It is a perennial puzzle why no woman wrote poetry in the Elizabethan age when every other man, it seems was capable of song or sonnet. What were the conditions in which women lived? I am not sure how they were educated; whether they were taught to write; how many women had children before they were twenty-one; what, in short, they did from eight in the morning till eight at night.

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# Speech Arts Technical Theory Level 3 Sample Exam

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4. Write a brief essay on TWO of the following.
- a. “Most of us suffer the same basic problem when we work with our voices—we are cut off from the breath.” –Patsy Rodenburg.  
Discuss what you think Rodenburg means by this statement.
  
  - b. Discuss the articulators and how you can avoid over-articulating.
  
  - c. Define and explain presentational and representational acting styles.

# Speech Arts Technical Theory Level 3

## Sample Exam

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- 20 5. Scan the following sonnet, using the scansion symbols provided in the RCM syllabus.

*Tennis*  
by Margaret Avison

Service is joy, to see or swing. Allow  
All tumult to subside. Then tensest winds  
Buffet, brace, viol and sweeping bow.  
Courts are for love and volley. No one minds  
The cruel ellipse of service and return,  
Dancing white galliards at tape or net  
Till point, on the wire's tip, or the long burn-  
ing arc to nethercourt marks game and set.  
Purpose apart, perched like an umpire, dozes,  
Dreams golden balls whirring through indigo.  
Clay blurs the whitewash but day still encloses  
The albinos, bonded in their flick and flow.  
Playing in musicked gravity, the pair  
Score liquid Euclids in foolscaps of air.

- 15 6. Poetic Analysis

Imagine that you are going to present the above sonnet. Justify your choices in the scansion by showing how the rhythm and the metrical irregularities you have noted can be used to good effect in your performance. Also discuss how the language and the poetic devices used will inform your presentation.