

Year 11-12

Remote learning task

SECTION A: BRINGING TEXTS TO LIFE

1984 George Orwell, Robert Icke and Duncan Macmillan

Answer ALL questions.

You are involved in staging a production of this play. Please read the extract on pages 6 and 7.

2 (a) There are specific choices in this extract for performers.

(i) You are going to play Parsons. Explain **two** ways you would use **non-verbal communication** to play this character in this extract. (4)

(ii) You are going to play Syme. He does not like Parsons.

As a performer, give **three** suggestions of how you would use **performance skills** to show Syme's attitude towards Parsons.

You must provide a reason for each suggestion. (6)

(b) There are specific choices in this extract for a director.

(i) As a **director**, discuss how you would use **one** of the **production elements below** to bring this extract to life for your audience.

You should refer to the context in which the text was created and first performed.

Choose **one** of the following:

- props/stage furniture
- lighting
- sound. (9)

Please answer A1, A2, and B1

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This play had its first performance at Nottingham Playhouse in September 2013.

Here's Parsons.

PARSONS (FATHER) wears shorts.

PARSONS: Syme. Smith. Smith, Syme!

SYME: Parsons.

PARSONS: Just got back from the Community Centre. So refreshing.

PARSONS sits down with them. SYME doesn't like him.

You know what that girl of mine did last Saturday? Absolutely brilliant. Pleased as punch. Her troop are on a hike out Berkhamsted way. Two of her friends go with her and they all slip off – following this man. They keep on his tail for two hours, right through the woods, right through the countryside, and when they get into Amersham they hand him right over to the officials.

WINSTON: Why did - ?

PARSONS: My kid made sure he was some kind of enemy agent. Might have been parachuted in or something. But this is the bit that's really brilliant. What put her onto him in the first place?

SYME: Shoes.

PARSONS: He was wearing a funny pair of shoes!

SYME: He told me before.

PARSONS: So chances are he was a foreigner. Pretty smart, right? Pretty smart for a seven year old.

JULIA (WAITRESS) walks along the corridor as before. WINSTON watches her as she enters the room. He is terrified of her and is only half-listening to PARSONS.

WINSTON: What happened to the man?

PARSONS: Couldn't say. But wouldn't be surprised if it's -

PARSONS aims an imaginary rifle and pulls the trigger. There is a loud gunshot which only WINSTON hears.

SYME: Good.

PARSONS: I mean, there is a war on.

JULIA comes closer, sits at the other end of the table. WINSTON takes a knife from the table and holds it.

Did I ever tell you about the time my daughter set fire to that old woman's skirt because her and her friends - well they saw her leaning against a poster of Big Brother! Burned her quite badly. Little beggars! But it's amazing how much they pick up on - how much they notice - It's a first-rate training training training they give them in the Spies nowadays - better than in my day, even. You know what they've served them all out with now? Devices for listening through keyholes! My little girl brought one home the other night - tried it out on our bedroom door, and reckoned she could hear twice as much as with her ear to the hole. Of course it's only a toy, mind you. Still, gives 'em the right idea eh? She's thoughtpolice in the making.