Class 6 English Assessment: The Art of the Playscript

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of the structural features, dramatic conventions, and stylistic requirements of a playscript.

Read the provided scene carefully and answer the questions that follow. Ensure your answers reflect the specific conventions used in writing for the stage.

[SCENE START]

SETTING: A cluttered workshop filled with half-finished inventions. MAX (a monkey wearing goggles) is pacing in front of a giant, ticking clock. KIT (a fox) sits at a desk, surrounded by scattered blueprints.

MAX: (Frantically tapping his calculator) It’s not working, Kit! The gears are misaligned by exactly 4.2 millimetres. If we don’t fix it, the library clock won’t chime at noon!

KIT: (Without looking up from his tablet) Keep your tail on, Max. I’ve calculated the tension coefficient. We just need to tighten the main spring.

[Max picks up a large silver wrench and moves towards the clock.]

MAX: (Nervously) I hope your maths is better than your tea-making skills!

[SCENE END]

Word bank: stage directions · dialogue · character name · setting · parentheses · act · scene · props

1. Identify one example of a 'stage direction' from the passage and explain its purpose. (2 marks)

2. In a playscript, why is it important to include the names of the characters in capital letters before their dialogue? (2 marks)

3. Look at the passage. How does the author show the reader how the characters are feeling without using speech? (3 marks)

4. Explain the purpose of the information provided in the 'SETTING' section at the start of the script. (3 marks)

5. Rewrite the following line of prose as a line of a playscript: 'Ellie the elephant walked slowly into the room, looking very sad because she had lost her favourite book.' Include a character name, a stage direction in parentheses, and dialogue. (5 marks)

6. If Max and Kit were selling tickets to see their invention, and tickets cost £4.50 each, how much would they make from selling 6 tickets? Show your calculation. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of the workshop described in the passage, labelling where Max, Kit, the clock, and the desk are positioned on the stage.

Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph explaining why playscripts are written differently to novels. Think about who the final audience is for each format. Total: /25