

Blood Brothers Set Design – 20-mark question

Opening Paragraph – Proscenium Arch Stage with fly gallery – wings (fly in and out backdrops - truck in and out furniture) cyclorama upstage (lighting and projections locations and time of day) Continuous flow of *action for multiple* scenes and covering 3 decades. Representational set. Stage floor cobbled brown green grey and smooth texture changes with lighting for different locations.

2nd paragraph (extract) 3rd paragraph (contrasting scene) 4th paragraph (contrasting scene)

Terminology - Colours – Materials – Levels – Textures - Stage positioning – Wall Flats – Window Flats – Masking Flats – Balcony – Scaffold – Sky scape – Mood and Atmosphere – Location – Trucking in and Out – Rolled in on Casters – Flying in and Out – Projections

Paragraph 2 – (set design for the extract) location – time-period - scenic devices – how set supports the action of the scene- mood - themes

Paragraph 3 - (transition - set design of contrasting moment with contrasting scenic devices) location – time-period – scenic devices – how set supports the action of the play – mood – themes

Paragraph 4 - (transition – set design of contrasting moment with contrasting scenic devices) location – time-period – scenic devices – how the set supports the action of the play – mood – themes

DRAMA

Answering the 20 mark question

- Opening Paragraph - Type of stage P.A - fly gallery- continuous flow of action – 3 decades – multiple locations - reference to the composite set as detailed by Willy Russell contrasting social class of the Lyons family and the Johnstone family throughout the play. (Trucks, cyclorama – projections, backdrops, wall window door flats)
- Style of set naturalistic
- Paragraph 2 - in your given extract, what set is required? How does it get on stage? Location - time period? Position of set? Use of set to support action?
- Why is this scene important to the rest of the play?

Vocab:
PA stage
Trucks
Balcony
Backdrops
Projected images
Flats
Gauze
Cyclorama
Props

Answering
about a
set design
20 marks

Your design must reflect the context of the play
Briefly show your knowledge of the play as a whole, mentioning
a key theme that your design helps communicate to the
audience for example.

Lyons house – 1960s - Trucked on CS - living room - wealthy middle-class home- expensive furnishings. on truck avocado shag pile carpet - a wooden coffee table - silver trinkets Knick knacks - 1960s décor. Mrs Lyons straightens these when Mrs Johnstone has dusted as she likes everything in exact order. Wall flats - bright floral Laura Ashley wallpaper - large wooden sideboard - record player- book shelves- bible – dictionary - vinyl records. Lyons have leisure time - sit read listen to music. bible used Mrs Johnson swear on. Wedding photos – conservative traditional couple. Rear of the truck window flat - masking flat -large lawn garden colourful flower borders - Mrs Lyons tends the garden - role as housewife. She shops and buys for the house and places her new shoes on the table.

Lyons house – Edward in cot 1960s
Same set as above with addition of:
Blue cot - high barred sides- solid ends painted white lambs -traditional style boy's cot in the 1960s - affluent middle-class family. The blue traditional colour boy. Mrs Johnstone stands over cot smiling cooing - Mrs Lyons looks on concerned. Christening photos on walls- Mr Mrs Lyons proudly holding Edward outside the church -Edward is central to their world- love they have for him - middle-class conservative values. Coffee table- baby toys - parenting books- cleanly washed folded baby grows, of blue cotton - care and attention Edward is given – housewife/mother role – Mrs Lyons - folding the baby clothes -watching Mrs Johnstone suspiciously.

External Street Scene J + L House – cobbled street - slum area - Liverpool. 1960s - 70s. Red brick wall flat USC– child graffiti 'I Love Everton'- poor working-class location –vandalism. Cyclorama US- projection skyscape of Liverpool - iconic Liver Buildings. Stage floor –cobble/grey brown/black/green- broken toys - handed down -lack of money - street playground working-class poor. SR row terrace council houses - door window wall flats flown in- Js house. Doorstep – empty milk bottles -hungry children unable pay milk man. Door yellow faded flaking paint- Council house poor repair. Window ledge pot plant Mrs J tends- turn away from Edward compose herself control emotions saying goodbye. The stage floor vast area - scale makes the boys look small-sit down age 7. L house wall door window flat SL. Large windows- brightly coloured curtains - affluent middle-class. Detached stone house - balcony upstairs window - narrator stands watches over action -Mrs Lyons stands searching for Edward.
Stage floor cobble stones of grey, brown, and black - external street scene 1060s - Ed reluctant sit on street dirty, plays in the garden - difference upbringing, wealth and social class.

Answering the 20 mark question

Sefton Park – Shooting at Peter Pan statue – aged 7

Cyclorama US projected image city park landscape – paths-grass- pond -creates sense open space –scale – children seem small - aged seven. kneel CS – prop - gun- shoot out to audience - sound effect shots hit or miss target - shooting at the statue of Peter Pan. Cobbled floor pin spots- orange – green – blue - flowers grass.

Lyons house early 1970s Ed 7 years old.

Internal scene – truck SL- white artex wall flat left - typical décor 1970s. Rear truck-wall door window flat . Behind window masking flat - large green lawn -child’s swing and slide - wealthy middle-class status Lyons. Detached house Ed expensive playthings. Door flat -Mr L exit + M enters - illusion other rooms in house. Brown leather armchair - matching 3-piece sofa, Ed Mr Lyons sit -reading together - cosy, safe and warm family environment. Heavy woollen brown carpet - glass top coffee table - educational books and dictionary. Ed uses dictionary look up Bogie man – books importance of Education -private school. Walls - framed smiling family photos - Eds certificates of achievements - parental pride. Living room - sense of extreme domesticity - reflects Mrs L obsessives with house – family. s M entrance - bursts in runs around -totally chaotic, shocking comical in household or order neatness tidiness.

The classrooms – crosscut scenes of Mickey and Edwards School

Willy Russell - highlight contrast M Secondary Modern school – working-class poor - Ed private boarding school - privileged education wealthy middle class. Cross cuts - differences - students teachers - opportunities social class can afford people. M classroom actors carry singular wooden desks chairs - SR - quickly create secondary modern classroom. - desks - lift tops – teacher tries to teach - students bang them shut - disruption in the classroom. Thatcher government 70s 80s cuts in education funding - lack investment infrastructure – worn out drab set. USR- wall flat flown - peeling cream paint -battered notice board - army recruitment/ sex ed posters - defaced by students - others watch and snigger - sense of apathy in education. Unemployment as high as 50% in Liverpool- many students’ education meaningless - recession little prospect of a job. Set - vandalism, disruption apathy. Black board wheeled on, - DSR - M + L initials chalked on I- huge love heart –M embarrassed - Linda pleased – teenagers relationship feelings. Students scrunch up paper – make planes -throw at teacher back turned – lack of care -respect teacher - education. Large florescent tube light -flown in - hangs above set, flickering continually - set dimly light - lack of natural light - flickering adds tension to action.

Ed stands DSL - cricket whites – cyclorama US - projection vast playing fields – cricket + rugby pitches stretches to horizon - openness space - highly privileged boarding school. Stark contrast M school. Long red woollen runner stage floor - large wooden panelled wall flat flown in SL - grand entrance hall of the school. black + yellow embossed scroll hangs on wall festooned with names past students - academic achievements - sporting trophies. Ed stands on the red runner looking defiant - teacher struts around him. The set - imposing -privileged - Ed isolated and small.

LINDA MICKEY AGED 14 ON HILL TOP IN SKELMESDALE – SUSPENDED FROM SCHOOL

Mickey + Linda 14 - countryside Skelmersdale 'New Town' in 1970s - suspended from school. Hill side; overlooking the new houses. USC truck in - wooden stile - part of a fence either side of stile and green Astro turf on truck floor - represent whole fenced field area + whole field. The stage floor speckled with pin spots of orange and green and yellow - change cobble floor into summer meadow - grass + wildflowers. Backdrop flown in – projection rolling hills fields new housing - emphasises the countryside + new town - working class families from Liverpool moved here from slums. Stile supports action - Linda pretends to get her heel stuck on stile - insists Mickey helps her down - so he must hold her. Large tree flown down stage right - on trunk carved large heart - initials M +L in it.- Indicates romantic feelings of teenagers they cannot express. The brightness and lightness of the set creates a mood and atmosphere - new beginning - young love - possibilities of a new start, having left the slums of the inner city behind.

Bus Scene 1970s

Mickey, Sammy and Linda - bus Liverpool 1970s. Actors wheel in three two-seater bus seats - casters. Metal framed seats - burnt orange leather upholstery - style of council corporation buses 70s. Seats - positioned on diagonal CSL - facing downstage right. Driver wheel in single seat - holds steering wheel - moves wheel right + left - mime - driving motion. Actors complement - swaying when driver turns wheel – Actors bobbing up down on seats - mime movement of the bus across the cobbled streets. DSL Bus Stop sign- actors stand prior to getting on the bus. Sammy holds up the bus- actors move in unison when bus brakes sharply - sound of screeching brakes – motion of actors indicate urgency and tension of the moment.

Fairground - Summer 1970s

Fairground - cyclorama US - flash - bright colourful lights - orange, yellow, red purple - exciting, vibrant fun filled atmosphere - Mickey, Linda and Eddy - full of laughter and life and youth. String coloured light bulbs strung across stage right to left - indicate the fair rides - external scene. Actors DSL on apron - using a rifle - shoot out towards the audience as if at a stall shooting targets. The scene is reminiscent of the park shooting at Peter Pan aged 7 sounds of shots missing and hitting target.

DRAMA

Answering the 20 mark question

Johnstone's Kitchen new house - Skelmersdale 1970s

A new council house – Skelmersdale - 1970s, - New beginning for Johnstone family - left slums inner-city Liverpool. Trucked SL- kitchen - wall window flat rear truck - bright white net curtain - masking flat behind window - lawned garden - blue sky. Wall flat truck right - glossy bright orange kitchen cupboards - brown Formica kitchen work surfaces - typical 1970s council house kitchens. Contrast dark, terraced housing inner city. Back lighting through the window - orange kitchen cupboards glow - optimistic, open light feel. Mrs J stands at stainless-steel sink and draining board - washing dishes - glances out of the window - cleans and tidies - pride new home – new beginning. Black white chequered lino on the floor - typical of 70 s working-class homes. A yellow formica table with four chairs stands centre truck - piles neatly washed folded clothes - Mrs J cares for family and continually does the washing and cleaning. Mrs L enters- mood change and back lighting creates to dark storm clouds gathering – set lighting makes space look small and dark - highlighting the danger and sense of tension.

Prison Scene 1980s

L visiting M in prison Liverpool 1980s. M depressed - taking antidepressant pills. The prison room trucked CS - grey brick wall flat rear truck - reflects - coldness - isolation - loneliness prison environment. Floor truck - grey flag stones - room - cold claustrophobic feel - represents austere Victorian prison building - little modernisation - lacks comfort - dark depressing place. Cuts to prison funding 1980s and overcrowding. Metal table - 2 stark metal chairs – L + M sit opposite each other - environment lacks intimacy - love. There is an orange bottle of pills on table - Ms picks up slowly takes a tablet. M rocks on his chair - drums fingers on table - creates constant, harsh, metallic, drumming sound - adds to the tension - sense of hopelessness and desperation.

Mickey and Linda's Flat late 1980s – M out of prison – Addicted to anti-depressants

Trucked in CS - small claustrophobic living room - high-rise block of flats - Liverpool late 80s. Room lacks natural light – light bulb hangs over set flickering adds to tension. Sparsely furnished - cold, damp feel - reflects working-class poverty. - lacks any home comforts. Rear truck wall flat - yellow woodchip wallpaper - spores black mould - damp environment lack of ventilation. Wall flat hangs 3-bar electric fire - glowing red, - coin electric meter next to it - common to council properties- occupants struggled to pay fuel bills. Above fire - picture couple smiling - wedding day - juxtaposes set - highlights tragic downfall M - stress of relationship. Two sagging old worn brown cord cushioned armchairs - either side fire - cannot afford new furniture. Linda sits in one anxiously watching M – he searching for his pills. On the other chair newspapers - M bates bag L has put in sandwich box – her role - housewife - mother. M rummaging through bag and the newspapers looking for his pills and throwing the papers on the floor. Old wooden dresser stands truck right – M opening drawers searching for pills. Desperate fast action.

Town Hall

Council chamber - Town Hall late 1980s - Liverpool - Final moments of the play. Large imposing Victorian building - once affluent merchant trading city - now - aging - state of disrepair - reflecting economic recession 1980s - social deprivation Liverpool. Fly in 2 huge dark oak panel wall flats SR – SL - faded - worn - festooned with posters for fund raising events for unemployed advice - helplines - high level of unemployment - poverty working class Liverpool in 1980s – up to 50 %. Several large political, protest and union banners, hang s- strong socialist council - many union rallies - protesting financial cuts imposed by the Thatcher government during the 80s.

Enormous Victorian style picture window USC – visible through it is skyline – iconic Liver buildings projected on US cyclorama. notice Centre stage is a large wooden conference table, high back wooden chairs - councillors sit - sense of the formal meeting. Water jugs and half-filled drinking glasses on the table, along with paper and pens - busy council meeting which is well underway. Councillors sit around the table listening to Eddie. He stands DSR - raised platform large wooden lectern - microphone - addressing audience. His high social standing - wealthy middle class - position authority - councillor - dramatic contrast M working class, depression - poverty. Mood – tension M bursts in - cyclorama dark imposing clouds - create grey foreboding sky scape - appears storm like. Foreshadows tragic ending - menacing and ominous feel.

After shooting Mrs J stands over bodies - back lighting through the window dark sun set – glowing red, - skyline bathed in blood – reflects on wall flats – whole set adds to sense of tragedy – death - agony – anguish that has befallen mothers and Linda.