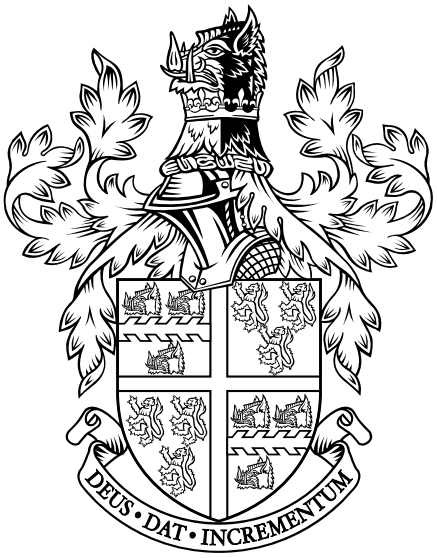


TONBRIDGE SCHOOL

Test for Entrance into Year 12 for 2015

Drama

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Enter PUCK

PUCK What hempen homespuns have we swaggering here
So near the cradle of the Fairy Queen?
What, a play toward? I'll be an auditor,
An actor too perhaps, if I see cause.

QUINCE Speak, Pyramus! Thisbe, stand forth!

BOTTOM (*as Pyramus*)
Thisbe, the flowers of odious savours sweet –

QUINCE Odours – 'odorous'!

BOTTOM (*as Pyramus*) ...odours savours sweet.
So hath thy breath, my dearest Thisbe dear.
But hark, a voice! Stay thou but here awhile,
And by and by I will to thee appear. *Exit*

PUCK A stranger Pyramus than e'er played here. [*Exit*]

FLUTE Must I speak now?

QUINCE Ay, marry must you; for you must understand he goes but to see a noise that he heard, and is to come again.

FLUTE (*as Thisbe*)
Most radiant Pyramus, most lilywhite of hue,
Of colour like the red rose on triumphant briar,
Most brisky juvenal, and eke most lovely Jew,
As true as truest horse that yet would never tire,
I'll meet thee, Pyramus, at Ninny's tomb –

QUINCE 'Ninus' tomb', man! – Why, you must not speak that yet; that you answer to Pyramus. You speak all your part at once, cues and all. Pyramus, enter – your cue is past. It is 'never tire'.

FLUTE O –
(*as Thisbe*)
As true as truest horse, that yet would never tire.

Enter PUCK, *and* BOTTOM *with the ass head on*

BOTTOM (*as Pyramus*)
If I were fair, fair Thisbe, I were only thine.

QUINCE O monstrous! O strange! We are haunted! Pray, masters, fly, masters! Help!

Exeunt Quince, Snug, Flute, Snout and Starveling

PUCK I'll follow you: I'll lead you about a round,
Through bog, through bush, through brake, through briar;
Sometime a horse I'll be, sometime a hound,
A hog, a headless bear, sometime a fire,
And neigh, and bark, and grunt, and roar, and burn,
Like horse, hound, hog, bear, fire at every turn. *Exit*

BOTTOM Why do they run away? This is a knavery of them to make me afeard.

Enter SNOUT

SNOUT O Bottom, thou art changed. What do I see on thee?

BOTTOM What do you see? You see an ass head of your own, do you?
[*Exit Snout*]

Enter QUINCE

QUINCE Bless thee, Bottom, bless thee! Thou art translated! *Exit*

BOTTOM I see their knavery. This is to make an ass of me, to fright me, if they could; but I will not stir from this place, do what they can. I will walk up and down here, and will sing, that they shall hear I am not afraid.
[*Sings.*] The ousel cock so black of hue,
With orange-tawny bill,
The throstle with his note so true,
The wren with little quill –

CHOOSE ONE QUESTION FROM SECTION A AND ONE QUESTION FROM SECTION B. YOU SHOULD SPEND ABOUT 30 MINUTES ON EACH PLUS PLANNING TIME.

SECTION A

1. How would you direct Act 3 Scene 1 of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (from Puck's entrance on Line 60 to line 106 - Bottom sings 'The wren with little quill'.) to bring out the comedy for your audience?

   You could refer to how you would encourage the actors to interpret and deliver their lines; how the characters interact and relate to one another; physical actions and expressions; plus, any design elements you would utilise.

2. The wood in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* has been variously interpreted as a pretty and charming place, home to an innocent troupe of fairies, and a malevolent and threatening place, peopled by an altogether more sinister type of spirit.

   How would your set and costume designs for the scenes set in the wood communicate your interpretation of the fairy world?

SECTION B

3. With reference to one production you have seen, assess the contribution made by one or two of the performers in enhancing your appreciation of the play. Refer to the actor's interpretation of their role(s) and the key relationship(s) with (an) other character(s). How was this communicated through the use of the voice, body and space?

4. With reference to a performance you have been in during the last year or two. Explain what role you played in that performance, what preparations you made to play it, and how you felt it went when you performed it. Choose a pivotal moment from your performance and explain why this moment made such a big impression on the production.