

Staging A Scene

Unseen and Studied Drama

Popular Choice

- ▶ This is a commonly-asked question so you should be prepared for it.
- ▶ Often you are given guidelines as to how many aspects of staging to include or what precise aspects you must include.
- ▶ As always, read the question carefully.



IMPORTANT!

- ▶ You must **support every choice** you make by **reference** to the text.



NB

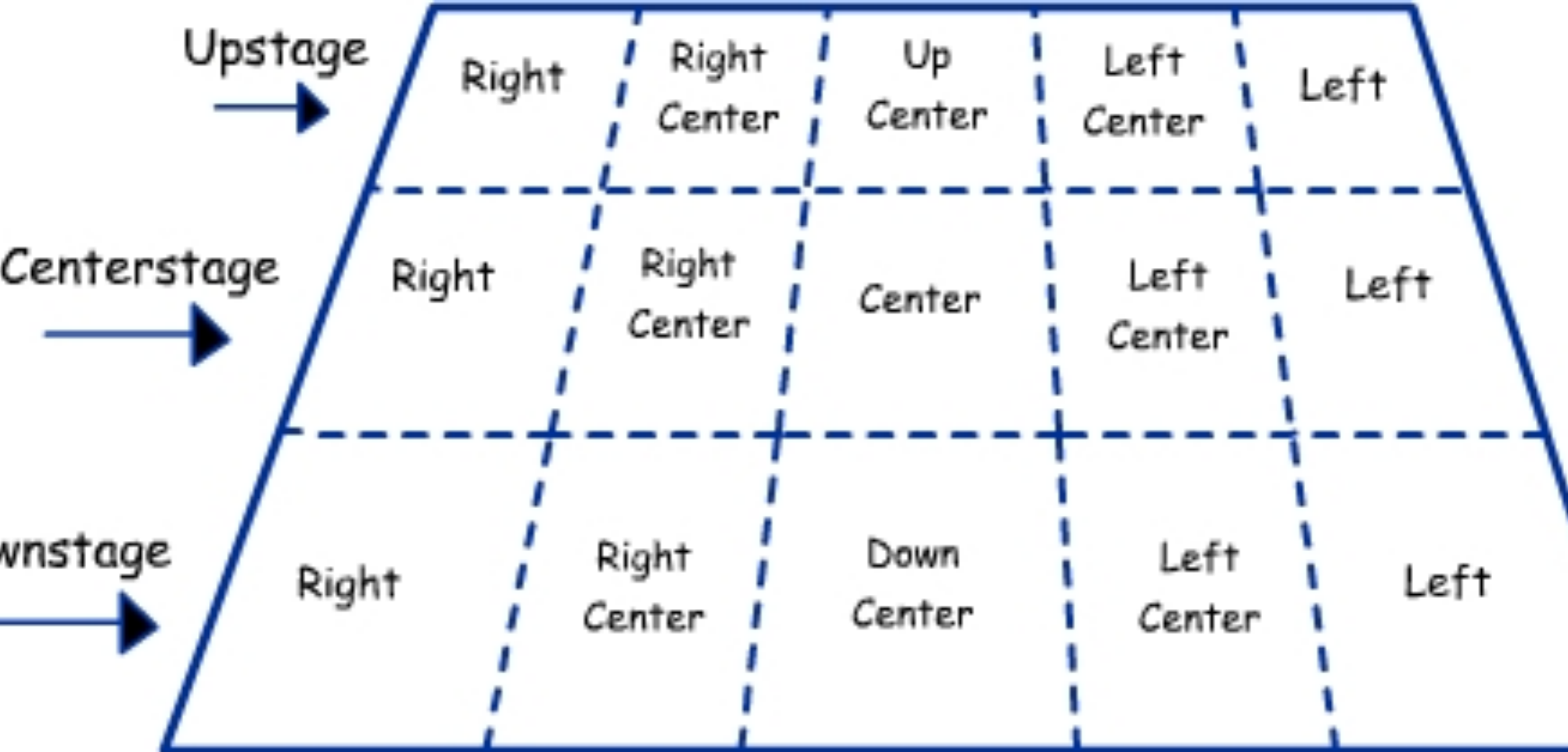
Set

- ▶ Does not need to be elaborate
- ▶ Simple backdrop
- ▶ A few pieces of furniture
- ▶ A prop or two



Stage Positioning

- ▶ Powerful character in a position of dominance?
- ▶ Isolated character standing alone?
- ▶ Would you have a tiered stage with a dominant character in a higher position than the other?



AUDIENCE



Costumes and Make-up

- ▶ Colours can be very suggestive here.
- ▶ Red - passion or anger
- ▶ White - purity or innocence
- ▶ Black - evil or power
- ▶ Yellow or greenish tinge - sinister and evil



- ▶ Use plenty of **adjectives** to describe the costumes
- ▶ Torn, dishevelled, sleek, expensive, elegant, flowing, tightly-fitted, bloody etc.
- ▶ You could **link characters** by having them wear similar or complementary colours

Posture, movement, voice

- ▶ Standing proudly upright?
- ▶ Bent in humble submission?
- ▶ Exaggerated gestures?
- ▶ Whispering and creeping around the stage?
- ▶ Support every point you make with quotation from and reference to the play.



Facial Expression

- ▶ Can tell us a lot about a character's true feelings
- ▶ Smiling cruelly?
- ▶ Mouth in a hard line?
- ▶ Frowning?
- ▶ Smirking?
- ▶ Smiling warmly?
- ▶ Etc.



Sound Effects

- ▶ Music - could be romantic, sorrowful, dramatic etc.
- ▶ Choice of music shows you understand the mood
- ▶ Swords clashing
- ▶ Screaming
- ▶ Murmur of angry voices
- ▶ Etc.



Lighting

- ▶ Can establish mood / atmosphere
- ▶ Spotlights to pick out important characters
- ▶ Filters to create warm, glowing light
- ▶ Dim light to create menacing or eerie atmosphere

