



This is an idea which you might find helpful to keep adding to or 'topping up'. Most usefully, it can be kept in the back of a rehearsal log or diary and divided into different columns for movement, voice and facial expression (or even refined further to include gesture, mannerism etc.)

In answering the paper, you are often asked to **describe** how they used their acting skills. Most of you find it fairly easy to **show** what they did, but more difficult to **explain** or **write** it down.

Finding the right words to be able to explain clearly to an examiner exactly what the actor **did** with their voice, face, body can take up valuable time in a stressful exam situation.

The list, by its nature, is inexhaustible, but giving you a few 'starters' to build on through rehearsals can give you a few **choices** to consider when under the pressure of time.

Here are a few ideas to begin with:

**Facial expression:** Smile, frown, furrow brow, open mouth wide with shock/ surprise/ astonishment, sneer, grimace, raise eyebrows, gaze into space, maintain direct eye contact, curl lip, pucker lips, lick lips, stare at the ceiling, adopt blank expression, wrinkle nose, eyes darting around the room, wink, blink, stick out tongue, drop jaw, set jaw, grit teeth, bear teeth, chew lip, pout, narrow eyes, squint.

**Voice/Vocal Sounds:** Shout, stammer, whisper, sob/cry, mutter under breath, speak directly to audience, adopt strong regional accent, speak very precisely, sing-song, sneeze, sniff, wheeze, giggle, roar, nasal sound, lisp, speak with a weak 'r', higher/lower pitch, yawn, scream, whine, babyish tone, sinister tone, commanding, apologetic, melodic, grating, halting/nervous, monotone.

**Movement/posture:** Stride, slump shoulders, march, lower self into chair, curl up on chair, twitch, pull shoulders back, shuffle, mince, skip, drop/lift head, run, walk, circle arms, lift shoulder, swagger, amble, clench fists, shake head/hands/feet, stagger, bend back, rest on stick, bounce, throw self to floor/across stage, totter (in high heels), bend from the waist, 'invade the personal space' of other actors/characters, play with hair, fidget, hug self.