

Style Choices

Naturalistic Sets – the set is designed to look realistic. Everything would be detailed, precise and matched to the time period and location perfectly.

Minimalist Sets – very limited use of props and scenery. Audience need to use their imagination more. Any props or scenery used will be significant and probably used in multiple ways.

Abstract Sets – Can be basic or elaborate. Will not be realistic. Focus on symbolism.

Composite Sets – these sets show several locations on the stage all at the same time.



Set Design – Knowledge Organiser

What is SET?

- ✚ Set is the **first thing that the audience sees**.
- ✚ Set is **everything that is on stage** – scenery, furniture, props etc.
- ✚ Set **helps with an audience's understanding and interpretations**.
- ✚ Set is **designed to support a performance**.

What a designer needs to consider:

- Size and shape of stage.
- Size of set.
- Materials and texture.
- Colour.
- Impact on the performance.
- Specifics of the script. Does it serve the practical requirements of the performance?
- Use of levels.
- Entrances and exits.
- Context and location of the performance.
- Use of backdrops.

Key Terms:

Trucks – wooden structure on wheels. Normally double sided with two different set pieces. Designed for quick changes.

Projections – moving or still images or words projected onto the stage or backdrop.

Flats – a piece of scenery mounted on a frame.

Cyclorama – a curved screen at the back of the stage. Used for projections.

Smoke machines – create a smoky atmosphere on stage.

Pyrotechnics – fireworks on stage. Used for special effects such as loud bangs.

Props – anything moveable on stage.

Backdrop – a large painted cloth hung as part of the scenery.

Drapes – hanging fabric or curtains.

Furnishings – any furniture on stage.

Multimedia – use film or still image as a form of scenery.

Dressings – items on stage that are not props but help create detail and interest such as a vase.