



# Arts, Music and Entertainment

Note-taking: youth theatre festivals | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0510/0511

## 1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you read.

1. What kind of performance would you enjoy watching live?
2. Why might theatre festivals be useful for young people?
3. What skills can students develop through drama?
4. Should schools take part in local arts events?

### Exercise 3 at a glance

In this activity, you will read one factual text and complete notes using information from the text. In the exam, this task is usually worth 7 marks. This practice version includes extra notes to help you build confidence. Use short words or phrases from the text, not your own ideas.

## 2. Read for overall understanding

Read the text. What are two benefits of youth theatre festivals?

### Youth Theatre Festivals

Youth theatre festivals give young people a chance to perform short plays, spoken-word pieces and musical scenes. They are often organised by schools, arts centres or local councils. The aim is not only to entertain an audience. Festival organisers say these events develop performance skills and help young people connect with the community. For students who rarely visit theatres, performing in a public space can make the arts feel less formal and more welcoming.

Preparation begins weeks before the festival. Students rehearse lines, practise clear pronunciation and learn how to project their voices. Some students work backstage, where they organise costumes, check props and manage simple lighting cues. Teachers say these jobs are important because a successful performance depends on teamwork, not just confident actors. Students also learn to meet deadlines, as costumes and sound effects must be ready before the first rehearsal with an audience.

Many festivals include workshops before the public show. Actors may teach students how to use body language or create a believable character. Writers sometimes help students edit a script so that the dialogue sounds natural. These sessions can be especially useful for students who enjoy stories but do not want to stand in the centre of the stage. A student who is nervous about acting may discover that writing, directing or stage management is just as creative.

Festivals can also bring people into public places. One town held performances in a library courtyard, a museum entrance and a small market square. This made the festival feel open to everyone, not only families with tickets. The main difficulty is timing: outdoor performances need good weather, and schools must avoid exam periods. Organisers also need permission if performances use music in public areas. Local businesses sometimes support the festival by lending chairs or printing programmes. Some residents who would never buy theatre tickets stop to watch for a few minutes, which helps students feel that their work matters. Even so, supporters say youth theatre gives teenagers a stronger voice in local culture.

### 3. Strategy focus

#### Separate skills from activities

A text may mention an activity and the skill it develops. If the heading asks for skills, copy the skill phrase, not only the activity.

### 4. Practice note-taking task

Complete the notes using information from the text. Use short words or phrases from the text. Do not add your own ideas.

Notes	Write short answers
Who organises youth theatre festivals	- ..... - ..... - .....
Performance skills students develop	- ..... - ..... - .....
Backstage jobs	- ..... - ..... - .....
Difficulties for organisers	- ..... - ..... - .....

### 5. Vocabulary notebook

Underline five useful words or phrases from the text. Check their meaning, then record them in your vocabulary notebook.

### 6. Follow-up tasks

1. Discussion: Which role in a theatre festival would suit you best? Why?
2. Strategy: Choose three answers and check whether each could be shortened without losing the meaning.
3. Writing: Write a short review of a youth theatre performance.
4. Vocabulary: Circle words and phrases connected to performance, teamwork and entertainment.

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## 2. Read for overall understanding

Suggested answer: they develop performance skills and help young people connect with the community.

## 4. Practice note-taking task

### Who organises youth theatre festivals

- schools
- arts centres
- local councils

### Performance skills students develop

- clear pronunciation
- project their voices
- use body language

### Backstage jobs

- organise costumes
- check props
- manage simple lighting cues

### Difficulties for organisers

- outdoor performances need good weather
- avoid exam periods
- need permission if performances use music

## Notes for checking

This is an extended practice version of the IGCSE ESL note-taking task. The live exam normally has fewer marks, but this version includes extra notes to build confidence and selection skills.

Accept short phrases that keep the same meaning.

Learners should avoid copying a whole sentence if a shorter note answers the heading.

Some answers need more than one or two words, especially when the key detail is a phrase.