

Candidate 6

PART-D DRAMA

Stoppard creates tension in the opening moments of "The Real Problem" in the stage direction, with even no dialogue.

The stage is silent and as each candidate comes one after another and 'looking up briefly' to eye up the competitors.

The opening dialogue between Hilary and Anmol is short and sharp. This is made more uncomfortable due to tight, restrictive set. 'Hilary sizes him up' each character is looking to learn more about each other, they are not interested in civilities only getting the job. They are all eager to find out as much about each other, their questioning dialogue creates the tension. The probing questions add to the tense atmosphere, asking what is your 'electorate'? Or where did you study? Anmol's answer to

everything is of a stuck up and demeaning answer. When asked "Is your doctorate in psychology?" he answers "If necessary". He shows off with a how smart he is listing his degree and accomplishments. This creates a competitive friction, he even begins to yell when her interview is running late, "Maybe he forget about you." Amaal is constantly trying to push himself above Hilary, but her answers bring her down in his eyes. When asked by Amaal where she went to university, she says "Leedsburgh" his cruel, demeaning question of "Where's that?" adds to the competitive tension. He continues to demean her degree by calling it a "sideline". Throughout the conversation there tension increases as each one sizes the other up and Amaal diminishes all that Hilary answers.

When Hilary suggests that their interview might be a "Control Area" Arnold is "Made uneasy, he corrects his sprawl." The seriousness and worry that Arnold feels for this job makes him drop his cool, calm exterior. The rigid and tight demeanour and manner extends to Hilary too when an executive, Leo walks in. The tension increases in the room; seen by their super formal, clinical answers show that "language". The competitive tension is heightened as Leo begins the interview questions in the room with Hilary as the two men begin to walk out. This makes it clear to the audience of the competitive situation the stage is portraying and allow them to feel the words that Hilary feels.

It is clear from the talk between Arnold and Hilary that one is not from as

high class and a background and is not as well educated - but maybe just as smart.

This does add to the tension between the two as an academic class device appears.

The audience is given more tension with the arrival of old school friend, Julia onto the stage. She is there to show the audience of the hard background that Hilary has come from but is tense due to the awkward topic of conversation.

Hilary tells Julia how she "had the baby" and this we know at such a young age - which creates an awkward tense feeling in their dialogue. Especially when Julia replies rather tensely "Oh, I wasn't asking!"

The rest of the conversation is filled with more tension as more hardships and uncomfortable topics are brought up on Hilary's life.

How she never saw her "GCSE's" and gave

her child up for "adoption", also the fact that she never saw (the father) again". These tense topics are cut away as the tension lightens for a moment with the introduction of Ursula, Julia's partner and wakes at the place, onto the stage. But quickly Ursula reminds Hilary, and the audience, that she is an unusual applicant for the job, calling Hilary's background "from the slush pile". It doesn't boost her confidence when describing the "competitor" as a "Mathematician. He's hodjan" and Julia says "Oh, that's bad." It is very tense as her chance of a successful interview seems slimmer and slimmer as the interview continues. Just as Ursula and Julia are about to leave, ^{Ursula} she rushes back and "close to Hilary, more intimately". These close, awkward stage directions heighten the tension.

as the pressure to get the job interview done well increase

The tension rising on the interview is increased when ^{Ursula} Taloa tells Hilary to hedge her interview on the "Hard Problem".

This mysterious survivor cranks up the tension as the pressure of the job is placed on one thing. It also very tense as due to the arrival of both Ursula and Taloa, Hilary is both reminded of the troubles of her past and the problems she must face in the future, between their exchanging dialogue.

As soon as them two characters leave another two enter and Hilary is never given a minute alone - thus the tension never ceases. The two men continue to talk about science and reminds Hilary of her pressing interview, and the audience, increasing the tension. An

Argument between the two men occurs over whether the "Brain thinks". This debate increases the tension even more so when Hilary asked "to jump in". This begins a tense debate between Hilary and Ansel as Hilary begins disagreeing with his proposition. He starts answers of "No." obviously have the tense disagreement. The tension rises as Ansel calls Hilary's proposition "mysticism!". The tension of this debate and competitive atmosphere rises to a climax when Hilary pulls out his trump card and speaks of "the Hard Problem". From this peak of tension the competition and debate suddenly fall as Leo begins to talk. Ansel is quickly suddenly told he didn't make the interview as Leo says "Thank you. Apologies again." This calm cool

cool answer is deep contrast to the debate that just occurred and to the news of his answer. Anual is not happy, he increases the tension again with short proclamation "Excuse me!" By now another gentleman has entered onto the stage they were going to leave but "They stop for [Anual]". The stage directions are key in increasing the tension as twice both men try to leave but are stopped by Anual. Anual goes onto to increase the tension with a big long speech depending his position which is then answered by a short answer "Anual, you're tonight, you're going to do fine." The

The strange character, in spots we, Jerry then begins to talk over Anual's position and it reaches a climactic tension when Anual realises that Jerry is the boss when

he says, when asked his name, "It's on the building. But people call me Jerry."

The tense atmosphere of his realisation between the characters is highlighted as both "Aunt and Hilary stare at each other." This tense realisation that she may have been arguing is reflected on Aunt's face. It is the same look that had been pulled over his eyes when he realised that his "interview" took place "in the toilet" - the same tense reaction.