Lighting – Key Terms

Lighting is used to:

- Communicate time of day and place in a scene
- Convey a specific atmosphere or mood in a scene
- Create a particular effect (e.g. flashing lights for thunder or disco lights)

Term	Image	Description
Gel		Coloured plastic which is put in front of a light to change its colour
Gobo		A metal stencil put in front of a light to change its shape
Cyclorama		A large white screen which is lit using floodlights or can be projected onto
Lighting Desk		A system for operating lighting – could be a manual desk or a computer programme
Rig		Placed above the stage, used to hang lights from
Follow spot		Used as a spotlight to follow performers around the stage
Profile		A light which provides a strong beam of light with sharp edges. You can adjust the angle, shape and size of this light.
Fresnel		A light which provides soft edges and a warm glow of light, used with flaps called barn doors. You can adjust the angle and size of this light.
Par Can		A light which is mostly used for creating a wash and filling the space. You can adjust the angle of this light
Strobe		A flashing effect
Wash		Light spreading across the whole of the stage
Shadow		Created where light is blocked by an object

Lighting Quiz

Task 1: Fill in the answers to this quiz.

1. What kind of light would be used as a spotlight on a particular character? _____
2. I want to fill the stage with a red light for a particular scene. What should I add to a light to achieve this? _____
3. Which kind of light uses flaps called barn doors to control the size of the light beam? _____
4. What three things can be adjusted on a profile light? _____, _____ and _____
5. Which of these is a flashing effect created by lights? (Circle answer)
   Wash Strobe Shadow
6. Which types of light can be angled? (Circle answers)
   Profile Fresnel Par Can
7. Which type of light would you use to create a full wash on the stage? _____
8. If I wanted to project an image onto the back of the stage space, what would I project it onto? _____
9. What is used to control the lighting in a performance? _____

Task 2: Working with Colour

Colour gels are used to change the colour of lights. Can you give some examples of scenes where the following colours might be used to suggest the mood or tone?

Dark red

Light blue

Deep yellow

Blackout