

Part 1

Read the leaflet below on musical plays and answer Questions 1–10.

A *Hamilton*

A sung-and-rapped-through musical from America, it tells the story of American Founding Father Alexander Hamilton. The play orchestrated several styles of music such as hip hop, R&B, pop, soul and traditional tunes. From its opening, *Hamilton* received critical acclaim. There is also a film version of this show.

B *West Side Story*

The story was inspired by a well-known story of William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Its setting is in New York City in the 1950s with people of multiple races. The story focuses on social problems and the conflicts between two street gangs are the background of this love story.

C *Singin' in the Rain*

Adapted from the 1952 movie of the same name, the plot closely adheres to the original. The play is about a silent film star in the waning days of the silent screen era in Hollywood. It also involves the transition into talking pictures and the stardom of the main characters.

D *Into the Woods*

This musical explores the consequences of the characters' wishes and quests. The main characters are taken from many famous fairy tales. The story involves a childless couple and their interaction with a witch who has placed a curse on them. There are plot twists from the fairy tales people are familiar with.

E *My Fair Lady*

Based on the play, *Pygmalion*, by a famous Irish playwright, the story concerns a flower girl who takes speech lessons from a professor in phonetics, so that she may pass as a lady. The show was later followed by a popular American musical film, considered one of the greatest in American film.

F *Miss Saigon*

A tragic love story between an American sergeant and a Vietnamese girl, the setting is in Saigon during the Vietnam War. The inspiration of this play was from a photograph of a Vietnamese mother leaving her child at a departure gate for a better future.

G *RENT*

This rock musical is loosely based on an opera 'La Bohème.' It tells the story of a group of poor young artists struggling to survive and create a life in Lower Manhattan's under the shadow of HIV/AIDS. The musical was first seen in a three-week workshop production at New York Theatre Workshop in 1993.

H *Matilda*

The musical's narrative centres on Matilda, a 5-year-old girl with the gift of telekinesis who loves reading. Matilda has to overcome obstacles caused by her family and school. The play is based on the 1988 children's novel of the same name by Roald Dahl.

I *The Sound of Music*

The setting is in Austria in 1938. The musical tells the story of Maria who takes a job as a nanny to children of the Von Trapp family and makes the house alive again through her music. The play is adjusted from the memoir of Maria Von Trapp in 1949.

J *Avenue Q*

Avenue Q tells the story of a college graduate named Princeton. When Princeton arrives in the city with big dreams and a tiny bank account, he has to move into a shabby apartment and find friendship there. The play is a musical comedy featuring puppets and human actors.

Question 1 – 10

Identify which paragraphs (A – J) contain information listed in Questions 1 – 10 by marking a cross ☒ for the correct answer. If you change your mind about an answer, put a line through the box ☒ and then mark your new answer with a cross ☒.

You must choose answers only from the information given in the leaflet. Paragraphs may be used more than once or not used at all.

This play

- 1 changes something in the stories well known to people.
- 2 uses the same name of the film version.
- 3 involves characters from different nationalities.
- 4 has a character that aims to move up to a better social status.
- 5 roughly follows its original version.
- 6 gets dolls involved on the stage.
- 7 includes some supernatural power.
- 8 had a limited period of showtimes during its launch.
- 9 is adjusted from a biography.
- 10 is inspired by a true event.