



Shrewsbury School

# **SHREWSBURY SCHOOL**

## **SIXTH FORM ENTRANCE EXAMINATION 2016**

### **THEATRE STUDIES**

**(1 Hour + 10 minutes Reading Time)**

#### **Instructions to candidates:**

Answer on lined paper

Answer both questions

**Read the following extract from *Enron*. Answer BOTH questions:**

1. Imagine that you have been asked to design a production of *Enron*. Explain how you would use costume design to communicate particular aspects of character. You may use drawings to support your answer. (15)

2. How would you perform the role of Skilling to show the shifts in status during the scene? You should refer to both physical and vocal aspects of performance. (15)

**From: ENRON**

*Dallas, Texas, 2000. Andy Fastow, the CFO of Enron, has had an idea...*

FASTOW: I don't know if you're big fans of hedging. I can't see how you wouldn't be. A hedge is just a way of protecting yourself from risk. You literally hedge your bets. If you got a lot of money in airlines, for example, you might think, hey, this is all going really well, lots of people fly – my investment is safe and going up. But what happens if there's a huge airplane crash, maybe people die, oh no, folk get scared of flying and your stocks plunge. Well, the smart guy hedges his airline investment with – maybe – an investment in a car rental company. When air travel frightens people, they want to feel in control, they'll drive interstate. So when your airline shares go (*noise and motion of crashing*) your car rental shares go (*noise and motion of rising*). So you never lose money. With enough imagination you don't ever have to lose anything. When I write down everything that can possibly go wrong, as a formula. A formula I control. Nothing seems scary any more.

SKILLING *enters.*

SKILLING: Andy. Andy you had a baby.

FASTOW: Yeah.

SKILLING: Congratulations, fella. You got a picture?

FASTOW: Here. He's called Jeffrey.

SKILLING: Wow. Great name.

FASTOW: Hey, who's done more for me in this world, you know?

*Beat.*

SKILLING: You know what I was doing when my daughter was born?

FASTOW: What?

SKILLING: I was on the phone from the hospital negotiating my deal. To come work here.

*Pause.*

FASTOW: You get a good deal?

SKILLING *makes a so-so gesture and sound.*

FASTOW: You know when you have a baby and it gets handed to you for the first time? I had this incredible, indescribable feeling – this defining realisation that in my life, from this point on – So. Many. Things. Could. Go. Wrong.

SKILLING: I guess.

FASTOW: And I say that as a man who knows how to manage risk. Risk is just the fear of losing something. Risk is life, basically.

*Beat.*

SKILLING: These. What are these?

*He has picked up a few sheets of paper covered in complex scrawlings, maybe half screwed up. From the darkness, a growl.*

FASTOW: Oh, those are the Raptors.

SKILLING: Raptors?

FASTOW: Financial models I'm –

SKILLING: Are these hedges?

FASTOW: Not as you'd normally understand them. But they're a way of managing risk. I'm playing with them. Just in my own time, just for...

SKILLING: For fun?!

FASTOW: Raptor one, raptor two, raptor three...

SKILLING: Raptors.

FASTOW: Jurassic Park.

SKILLING: You're thirty seven years old.

FASTOW: It's actually really well done.

SKILLING: So these are protecting you against losses in investments.

FASTOW: Yeah. Like, you know, with hedging how – say you're invested in airlines –

SKILLING: I know about your planes and cars thing, Andy, I've heard you at parties –

FASTOW: Okay, well, I've been seeing if there's a way of making a model that acts just like the car rental company without having to actually give my money to the car rental company.

SKILLING: A little theoretical.

FASTOW: Well, that's just the thing. A theoretical car rental company locks in your airline investment just as good as a real one. On the books.

SKILLING: Well sure, unless planes fall.

FASTOW: Yeah, but they almost certainly won't. It's crazy to have all this money flying out the door for things that probably won't happen. This model locks in the high value of your first investment. You own that, that's real.

SKILLING: These are interesting.

FASTOW: Yeah?

SKILLING: I could do with more guys like you.

*FASTOW beams.*

SKILLING: I got a problem, Andy. We got great stock price. We're declaring huge profits using mark-to-market. Correctly. But those actual profits aren't coming through yet. So.

FASTOW: There's losses.

SKILLING: That's right. We've got the best business plan, the highest share price, the smartest graduates. Trouble is. Right now. We're not making any money.

*Long pause.*

FASTOW: How bad?

SKILLING: You with me?

FASTOW: Always.

SKILLING: I can't find. Any area. Right now. Except trading. And there, day to day, we might lose as much as we make.

FASTOW: Wow.

SKILLING: Yeah.

FASTOW: You're not kidding?

SKILLING: I'm not kidding. I don't know what I'm gonna do. I don't mind taking losses. But I can't report taking losses right now. The gap between the perception and reality is...

*He puts one hand up at neck level to indicate the perception, and the other hand lower to indicate reality.*

I don't know what I'm gonna do.