The Crucible

Task 1: Which Act is which?

Although you will only be asked about 1 extract in the exam, it is important that you the play as a whole as you will need to refer to what has happened in the play before/after the extract.

Complete the activity below, matching the description to the Act that is best fitting.

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| Set in the Proctor’s house. Elizabeth and John are visited by Reverend Hale and questioned about their Christianity. John, having been unfaithful to his wife with Abigail, is unable to recite all 10 of the commandments. More women are accused of witchcraft, including Elizabeth Proctor. | ACT 2 |
| Set in the jail. After much of the village has been accused of witchcraft and are residing in jail, they must make the decision: confess to something they haven’t done and live, or speak the truth and be hanged. For religious John Proctor, this is an impossible decision. Elizabeth pleads with him to confess as she is pregnant, however John cannot go through with his lie. | ACT 4 |
| Set in Betty Parris’s bedroom. Betty is unconscious after spending the night dancing in the forest with her friends and Tituba. Suspicions of witchcraft begin to arise and a reverend from out of town is called in to help. Many women in the village are accused. | ACT 1 |
| Set in the courthouse. The witch trials commence, Mary Warren is questioned and finally gives in to the pressures of the gang of girls led by Abigail. John confesses his affair with Abigail to prove that she is a liar, however Elizabeth keeps his secret, proving herself to be a liar instead. Both Proctors are taken to jail. | ACT 3 |

Task 2: Name the character.

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| A local farmer who lives just outside town; Elizabeth Proctor’s husband. A stern, harsh-tongued man, who hates hypocrisy. Nevertheless, he has a hidden sin—his affair with Abigail Williams—that proves his downfall. When the hysteria begins, he hesitates to expose Abigail as a fraud because he worries that his secret will be revealed and his good name ruined. | John proctor. |
| Reverend Parris’s niece. She was once the servant for the Proctor household, but Elizabeth Proctor fired her after she discovered that she was having an affair with her husband, John Proctor. She is smart, wily, a good liar, and vindictive when crossed. | Abigail. |
| The servant in the Proctor household and a member of Abigail’s group of girls. She is a timid girl, easily influenced by those around her, who tried unsuccessfully to expose the hoax and ultimately recanted her confession. | Mary Warren. |
| Reverend Parris’s black slave from Barbados. She agrees to perform voodoo at Abigail’s request. | Tituba. |
| John Proctor’s wife. She fired Abigail when she discovered that her husband was having an affair with Abigail. She is supremely virtuous, but often cold. | Elizabeth Proctor. |
| The minister of Salem’s church. He is a paranoid, power-hungry, yet oddly self-pitying figure. Many of the townsfolk, especially John Proctor, dislike him, and he is very concerned with building his position in the community. | Reverend Parris. |

1. Explain what is happening in the extract.

Mary Warren has come back from court and says that 39 women have been arrested and will be hung unless they confess. She tells John and Elizabeth that Sarah Good confessed to working for the devil. John and Elizabeth think that the women are lying and that it’s wrong to hang them. John and Mary argue over whether she can continue to attend the trials.

1. What has happened in the play before this extract?

Betty Parris became ill and unresponsive after dancing in the woods at night with a group of girls. People think that witchcraft has caused her illness. **Parris questioned Abigail about the rumours, but she denies it.**Other children in the town have become ill or died. Abigail eventually admitted to witchcraft. John Proctor entered the room and it was revealed that they had an affair. Reverend Hale, an expert on witchcraft, arrived from another town to see if he can detect witchcraft. **Abigail confessed that Tituba called the Devil**. Tituba isn’t allowed to tell her side of the story and when she is threatened with hanging she confessed that she’d been forced to work for the Devil. She named Sarah Good and Sarah Osburn as fellow witches. **Abigail and Betty then admitted their involvement in witchcraft and shouted the names of several other women who they claim to have seen with the Devil. John** Proctor told his wife Elizabeth that Abigail had sworn her dancing had nothing to do with witchcraft. Elizabeth wants him to testify that the women are lying but he said that he cannot prove his allegation because Abigail told him this information while they were alone. Elizabeth loses all faith in John upon hearing this.

1. Analyse the mood and atmosphere in this scene. What makes you think that?