

Shakespeare

Unchecked Ambition

Task 1

Watch the interview. Which **four** of these topics does Shaheen talk about?

1. The main theme of 'Macbeth'
2. How Macbeth's character changes during the play
3. How Lady Macbeth's character changes during the play
4. How audiences reacted to a British-Asian version of 'Macbeth'
5. Differences between audiences in Britain and abroad
6. How the witches were played in the British-Asian version

Task 2

Watch part of the interview again, from 01.48 to 03.04. Use the correct words to complete Shaheen's descriptions of her production of 'Macbeth'.

India / Asian / Indian /
Asian / Britain / British

So many _____ films and stories have taken their inspiration from Shakespeare that obviously they relate to it and it's relevant for them. And so, for us, taking our _____ version of 'Macbeth' through _____ was quite extraordinary. The _____ audience loved it, as did a lot of white audiences actually. What a lot of white people really liked was that they saw a different 'take' on a lot of the Shakespeares they'd seen. I mean, for example, our witches were Hijras. Now,

Hijras, in _____, are actually transvestites, transgender. They're actually seen as the third gender. For me, that was very exciting, using the Hijras as the witches in 'Macbeth'.

Task 3

We use '**I wish**' and **the past simple** to express wishes about the present or future. For example, Shaheen says: '***I wish I was a bit more like Lady Macbeth.***' She uses the past simple ('was') but she's talking about the present.

Match the wishes below with the situations.

I just wish it wasn't so wet all the time.
I wish we had more time to revise.
I wish we could afford a new one.
I wish we didn't have to go home.
But I wish the salary was a bit higher.

1. We have an exam tomorrow.

2. I like England.

3. Our car is really old.

4. I really like my job.

5. It's a great party.

Task 4

Can you remember the wishes from the previous task? Type in the verbs in the correct tense. Remember that some of the wishes are negative.

1. We _____ an exam tomorrow. I wish we _____ more time to revise.
2. I _____ England. I just wish it _____ so wet all the time.
3. Our car _____ really old. I wish we _____ afford a new one.
4. I really _____ my job. But I wish the salary _____ a bit higher.
5. It _____ a great party. I wish we _____ have to go home.

Answers

Task 1

1. The main theme of 'Macbeth'
2. How Macbeth's character changes during the play
4. How audiences reacted to a British-Asian version of 'Macbeth'
6. How the witches were played in the British-Asian version

Task 2

So many Indian films and stories have taken their inspiration from Shakespeare that obviously they relate to it and it's relevant for them. And so, for us, taking our Asian version of 'Macbeth' through Britain was quite extraordinary. The British Asian audience loved it, as did a lot of white audiences actually. What a lot of white people really liked was that they saw a different 'take' on a lot of the Shakespeares they'd seen. I mean, for example, our witches were Hijras. Now, Hijras, in India, are actually transvestites, transgender. They're actually seen as the third gender. For me, that was very exciting, using the Hijras as the witches in 'Macbeth'.

Task 3

1. We have an exam tomorrow.
I wish we had more time to revise.
2. I like England.
I just wish it wasn't so wet all the time.
3. Our car is really old.
I wish we could afford a new one.
4. I really like my job.
But I wish the salary was a bit higher.
5. It's a great party.
I wish we didn't have to go home.

Task 4

1. We have an exam tomorrow. I wish we had more time to revise.
2. I like England. I just wish it wasn't / was not so wet all the time.
3. Our car is really old. I wish we could afford a new one.
4. I really like my job. But I wish the salary was a bit higher.
5. It is a great party. I wish we didn't / did not have to go home.