Explain how an actor playing the role of John Tate in this extract, could communicate her character to the audience. [15]

In your answer refer to:

* character motivation
* voice
* movement
* interaction.

John Tate’s motivation in this extract is wanting to keep everyone calm and together, on the same side. He is trying to stay in control of the group and this is reflected in his dialogue. John wants to get avoid the severity of what he’s done at this point in the play. This comes across at the start of the extract when he says ‘Alright. New rule: that word is banned’.

John Tate’s voice in this extract would be generally loud and assertive. He would convey challenge in lines such as ‘well just say it then’ and ‘say it and see what happens’. I would achieve this by combining voice and movement, moving closer to Danny and looming aggressively over him, while projecting and exaggerating ‘say it’. When he says ‘It’s a bit serious…’ I would use pause and false starts as he is trying to reassure himself that the situation is not as bad as it is. When he says ‘Which means you want…’ I would use a sarcastic tone to emphasise the element of control motivating John at this point.

Movement in this extract would reflect the tense nature of the scene. At the start, when John tries to ban the word ‘dead’, I would move in towards Richard, pointing and standing over him. When the stage directions say JT stops, I would look as if I were searching for something to say. When John says ‘I’m going to hurt you actually’ I would straighten my posture and clench my fist to show aggression. When Richard enters, I would move to more aggressive body language, my facial expressions becoming sneering and angry.

Interaction in the scene between Lou and Danny, would reflect the condescending nature of the relationship. I would ‘look down’ on these characters and loom over them. The interaction between JT and Richard would reflect the arrogant nature of the characters and the conflict and rivalry between them upright posture, lifted head and prolonged eye contact could be used to show this.