

# The dictator

## Zoom in

### Part 1

1. Describe the setting.

**The scene opens with a political meeting with a lot of important officials / officers who are listening to a very impressive speaker.**

2. a. What kind of shot is used to show Garbitsch? **A low-angle shot.**

b. Explain what effect that creates.

**He appears to tower over us, to be superior. This corresponds to what a dictator would look like.**

3. a. Describe Garbitsch's tone of voice.  warm.  cold.  close.  distant.

b. Say what type of person that kind of voice makes you think of.

**It makes us think of an authoritarian voice.**

4. Describe the barber (Chaplin).

**Charlie Chaplin is easy to recognise although he is wearing a military uniform. What is striking is that he is the spitting image of Adolf Hitler and has the same little moustache as him. The viewer understands that he is his double. He makes Hitler look ridiculous.**

5. Commander Schultz is next to the barber. What does he do and why is it important?

**He asks the barber to get up and speak to the crowd. It's important because he says "You're our only hope", the barber realises that he has no choice but to get up.**

6. Compare Garbitsch and the barber (Chaplin) in the way they act and speak.

|                   | Garbitsch                      | The barber                  |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Facial expression | <b>confident, serious</b>      | <b>ill at ease, nervous</b> |
| Attitude          | <b>Self-assured</b>            | <b>unsure of himself</b>    |
| Voice             | <b>determined but chilling</b> | <b>quiet and hesitating</b> |

### Part 2

7. How does the barber walk up to the microphone?

**He walks up to the microphone slowly, almost unwillingly. He seems reluctant to address the microphone and almost whispers into it.**

8. How important is the music in this scene?

**The music seems to follow the barber's emotions: it appears to show his fears. It makes a dramatic moment in the film even more intense as the viewer realises that the barber is reluctant to speak and he only does so because Schultz beckons him.**

9. Describe the leaders' reactions.

**The viewer sees in a brief shot that the top brass are shocked / appalled at the way their leader appears to act. They can't believe their eyes but when they hear his message we can guess that they won't be able to believe their ears, either.**

10. How does the barber speak to the audience?

**At first the barber appears scared, but then he seems to discover a sense of responsibility: he says he does not want to be a dictator and becomes more self-assured.**

11. What sort of concepts does the barber mention in his speech at first?

**He talks about happiness/ abundance/ freedom/ beauty/ democracy... versus misery/ hate/ dictatorship.**

### Part 3

12. What kind of shot does the camera gradually give us of the barber?

Close-up shot.

Long shot.

→ Effect: **It helps make the speech more dramatic and intense as we see and feel the way the barber speaks.**

13. Describe the barber's intonation throughout this part, and say what words he insists on.

**As the barber speaks, his voice slowly rises and gets louder and louder. He begins to speak faster and faster with increasing dramatic intensity. He begins to emphasise words such as "don't" and to show who he is speaking to, he stresses "you the people," which makes it clear that the speech is for us.**

14. What does the woman on the ground do during the speech?

a. At the beginning: **She is looking down with her head in her hands on the ground.**

b. At the end: **She lifts her head up and appears to "hear" the speech.**

15. Who do you think she is?

**We could guess that she's the barber's friend / girlfriend. She could also symbolise any oppressed person in any totalitarian regime.**

16. Who applauds the barber at the end? Why?

**A massed crowd of soldiers applaud him, but it could be the whole world that applauds Chaplin for the bravery of his words.**

### Look back

17. Who is Chaplin *really* addressing in this scene?

18. What genre do you think this film extract belongs to? Explain your answer.

adventure • comedy • documentary • historical film • parody • propaganda film • newsreel • satire