



External Assessment Report 2013

Subject(s)	Drama
Level(s)	Intermediate 1

The statistics used in this report are pre-appeal.

This report provides information on the performance of candidates which it is hoped will be useful to teachers/lecturers in their preparation of candidates for future examinations. It is intended to be constructive and informative and to promote better understanding. It would be helpful to read this report in conjunction with the published question papers and marking instructions for the examination.

Comments on candidate performance

General comments

Overall this year candidates performed well in both the Question Paper and the Practical exam. 90% of the candidates achieved grades A–C.

Areas in which candidates performed well

Practical Exam

The majority of centres had prepared candidates well. In centres where there was a separate group of Intermediate 1 candidates being presented, on the whole they were well rehearsed in their devised productions and supported by well prepared technical candidates.

Question Paper

- ◆ Question 4: the character card was fully answered by the majority of candidates.
- ◆ Question 5: this question was imaginatively done by the majority of candidates.

Areas which candidates found demanding

Practical Exam

In some centres Intermediate 1 Acting candidates were placed in Intermediate 2 productions and not given devised scenes to perform to meet the Intermediate 1 requirement for the external exam. This disadvantaged these candidates.

Question Paper

Question 3b: this question on Drama Form was poorly answered. Of those who responded, many talked about Structure and not Form.

Question 7b: this question was poorly answered considering that all the requirements for answering fully were given in the stem of the question. Many candidates seemed not to know what Theatre in the Round is.

Advice to centres for preparation of future candidates

Practical Exam

Centres should be aware that any Intermediate 1 Acting candidate must be in a production of 15–20 minutes duration. The production must be **devised**, not extant scripted work. If there is only one Intermediate 1 Acting candidate, casting them in a small role of an Intermediate 2 scripted production is permissible, but there must be devised scenes added to that production to give the Intermediate 1 candidate at least three minutes on stage in

these scenes with other actors. The Visiting Assessor will only look at and mark the Intermediate 1 candidate during these devised scenes.

Question Paper

Centres should remind themselves, by referring to the Arrangements document, of what may be covered in the Question Paper exam, and should prepare candidates accordingly.

Questions on form and structure and questions, which test knowledge and understanding of Theatre Arts and different ways of presenting drama, are areas of the syllabus that may appear in the Question Paper.

Statistical information: update on Courses

Intermediate 1

Number of resulted entries in 2012	348
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Number of resulted entries in 2013	293
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Statistical information: Performance of candidates

Distribution of Course awards including grade boundaries

Distribution of Course awards	%	Cum. %	Number of candidates	Lowest mark
Maximum Mark 100				
A	46.4%	46.4%	136	70
B	26.6%	73.0%	78	60
C	17.1%	90.1%	50	50
D	4.4%	94.5%	13	45
No award	5.5%	100.0%	16	-

General commentary on grade boundaries

- ◆ While SQA aims to set examinations and create marking instructions which will allow a competent candidate to score a minimum of 50% of the available marks (the notional C boundary) and a well prepared, very competent candidate to score at least 70% of the available marks (the notional A boundary), it is very challenging to get the standard on target every year, in every subject at every level.
- ◆ Each year, SQA therefore holds a grade boundary meeting for each subject at each level where it brings together all the information available (statistical and judgemental). The Principal Assessor and SQA Qualifications Manager meet with the relevant SQA Business Manager and Statistician to discuss the evidence and make decisions. The meetings are chaired by members of the management team at SQA.
- ◆ The grade boundaries can be adjusted downwards if there is evidence that the exam is more challenging than usual, allowing the pass rate to be unaffected by this circumstance.
- ◆ The grade boundaries can be adjusted upwards if there is evidence that the exam is less challenging than usual, allowing the pass rate to be unaffected by this circumstance.
- ◆ Where standards are comparable to previous years, similar grade boundaries are maintained.
- ◆ An exam paper at a particular level in a subject in one year tends to have a marginally different set of grade boundaries from exam papers in that subject at that level in other years. This is because the particular questions, and the mix of questions, are different. This is also the case for exams set in centres. If SQA has already altered a boundary in a particular year in, say, Higher Chemistry, this does not mean that centres should necessarily alter boundaries in their prelim exam in Higher Chemistry. The two are not that closely related, as they do not contain identical questions.
- ◆ SQA's main aim is to be fair to candidates across all subjects and all levels and maintain comparable standards across the years, even as arrangements evolve and change.