



National
Qualifications

Drama

Performance

General assessment information

This pack contains general assessment information for centres preparing candidates for the portfolio Component of Higher Drama Course assessment.

It must be read in conjunction with the specific assessment task(s) for this component of Course assessment, which may only be downloaded from SQA's designated secure website by authorised personnel.

Valid from session 2014/15 and until further notice

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Introduction

This is the general assessment information for the Higher Drama performance.

This Component is worth 60 marks out of the total of 100 marks. This is 60% of the overall marks for the Course assessment. The Course will be graded A-D.

Marks for all Course Components are added up to give a total Course assessment mark which is then used as the basis for grading decisions.

This is one of two Components of Course assessment. The other Component is a question paper.

This performance has two Sections.

Section 1, titled 'performance', will have 50 marks.

Section 2, titled 'preparation for performance', in the form of a review sheet, will have 10 marks.

This document describes the general requirements for the assessment of the performance Component for this Course. It gives general information and instructions for the Visiting Assessor.

It must be read in conjunction with the Assessment task for this component of Course assessment.

Equality and inclusion

This Course assessment has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to assessment. Assessments have been designed to promote equal opportunities while maintaining the integrity of the qualification.

For guidance on assessment arrangements for disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs, please follow the link to the Assessment Arrangements web page: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/14977.html

Guidance on inclusive approaches to delivery and assessment in this Course is provided in the *Course Support Notes*.

What this assessment covers

This assessment contributes 60% of the total marks for the Course.

This assessment will assess the specific skills, knowledge and understanding specified for the performance in the *Course Assessment Specification*. These are:

- ◆ responding to text(s)
- ◆ communicating thoughts and ideas
- ◆ developing ideas for performance through either acting or directing or designing skills

Assessment

Purpose

The purpose of this assessment is to generate evidence for this component of this Course by means of a performance.

The purpose of the performance is to enable candidates to draw on, extend and apply the skills, knowledge and understanding they have learned during the Course. The performance will assess the candidate's preparation and performance of a textual extract. The candidate may be assessed in either acting or directing or designing.

Assessment overview

The performance aspect of the Course has two Sections:

- ◆ performance
- ◆ preparation for performance

The weighting of marks across the two Sections of this performance will be 50 marks for the performance in either acting or directing or designing and 10 marks for the preparation for performance.

In the preparation for performance (which takes the form of a review sheet), marks will be allocated for:

- ◆ research into the chosen text(s)
- ◆ interpretation of their role
- ◆ process (development and progression) of either an acting or directing or designing concept

In the performance, marks will be allocated for:

- ◆ acting – preparation and performance of two contrasting roles
- ◆ directing – conducting a 30-minute rehearsal with actors
- ◆ designing – design of a set plus one other production role which complements this

The performance will allow the candidates to respond to text(s), develop skills and apply these skills as they perform to a 'live' audience.

Assessment conditions

Centres must exercise their professional responsibility in ensuring that evidence submitted by a candidate is the candidate's own work.

Centres are responsible for selecting and preparing the drama text(s) to be used for the performance prior to the assessment event.

Prior to the performance date candidates must take part in preparation activities (ie rehearsals). During rehearsals candidates will respond to text(s), agree the interpretation of their role and develop the skills associated with their role.

This assessment requires group activities during the rehearsal stages and the performance. Candidates have to rehearse and perform as actor or director or designer and communicate the agreed interpretation of their role.

The performance for the actors must take place in front of an appropriate 'live' audience. It is the responsibility of each centre to provide the appropriate audience, ie appropriate in age, textual content and numbers.

Preparation for performance

The preparation for performance (review sheet) will be generated in open-book conditions in advance of the performance date. It should provide a concise description of the candidate's research, role and interpretation of that role during the rehearsal process.

Controlled assessment: performance

In approaching the performance, candidates should be given the opportunity to select text(s) (actors will work from two texts, while directors and designers will work from one), which allow them full scope to explore, create and design a creative performance concept within their given role.

The actors' performances will be performed to the Visiting Assessor and an appropriate 'live' audience. The directors will rehearse a scene in front of the Visiting Assessor. The designers will present their work to the Visiting Assessor.

The performance will be marked by a Visiting Assessor.

The performance is:

- ◆ set by centres within SQA guidelines
- ◆ conducted under a high degree of supervision and control

All marking will be quality assured by SQA.

Evidence to be gathered

The following candidate evidence is required for this assessment:

- ◆ preparation for performance
- ◆ performance evidence in either an acting or directing or designing role

Actors

Actors should prepare two contrasting roles; 25 marks will be available for each role. Performances must involve interaction with at least one other actor. The performance of each role will last approximately seven to ten minutes.

Directors

Directors will conduct a rehearsal with actors for their performance assessment. The rehearsal should last approximately 30 minutes.

Designers

Designers will design a set for their chosen text and choose one other related production role. They will demonstrate their design concept for the play (this may be through the production of plans, drawings, designs, plot sheets, mood boards) and practical realisation of this. 30 marks will be awarded for set design and 20 marks for an additional production role. They will be given an opportunity to present their work to the Visiting Assessor, which should last approximately 20 minutes.

General Marking Instructions

In line with SQA's normal practice, the following general marking instructions are addressed to the Marker. They will also be helpful for those preparing candidates for Course assessment.

Visiting Assessors appointed by SQA will carry out the assessment.

All marking will be quality assured by SQA.

General Marking Principles for the performance

This information is provided to help the Visiting Assessor understand the general principles they must apply when marking candidate responses to this performance. These principles must be read in conjunction with the Detailed Marking Instructions, which identify the key features required in candidate responses.

- (a) Marks for each candidate response must always be assigned in line with these General Marking Principles and the Detailed Marking Instructions for this assessment.
- (b) Marking should always be positive. This means that, for each candidate response, marks are accumulated for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding: they are not deducted from a maximum on the basis of errors or omissions.

In preparation for performance, marks will be allocated for:

- ◆ research into the chosen text(s)
- ◆ interpretation of their role
- ◆ process (development and progression) of either acting or directing or designing concept

A maximum of 10 marks will be allocated to the preparation for performance.

In the performance, marks will be allocated for:

- ◆ acting – preparation and performance of two contrasting roles which must be selected from two different texts
- ◆ directing – conducting a 30-minute rehearsal with actors
- ◆ designing – design of a set plus one other production role which relates to the overall design concept

A maximum of 50 marks will be allocated to the performance.

Actors

Actors should prepare two contrasting roles. 25 marks will be allocated for each role. Performances must involve interaction with at least one other actor (this need not necessarily be someone from within the same class and could be someone who is not being assessed in this area). The performance of each acting role will last approximately seven to ten minutes.

In each acting role the marks will be allocated according to how the candidate:

- ◆ communicates the agreed interpretation of acting concepts by demonstrating an understanding of character through textual clues
- ◆ sustains character and conveys relationships through credible interaction with other characters
- ◆ appropriate and effective use of voice
- ◆ appropriate and effective use of movement
- ◆ impact on audience

The above areas will be allocated a maximum of 10 marks (a maximum of 5 marks for each of the two acting roles).

Directors

Directors will conduct a rehearsal with actors for their performance assessment. The rehearsal should last approximately 30 minutes.

The scene will be selected from a textual extract of approximately two pages.

In a directing role the marks will be allocated according to how the candidate:

- ◆ sets the extract in the context of the whole play and communicates directorial concepts including establishing characterisation
- ◆ directs the use of movement and considers stage proxemics within the blocking process to communicate aspects of plot, themes and issues and the development of characters and relationships
- ◆ directs the use of voice, including delivery of lines to communicate aspects of plot, themes and issues and the development of characters and relationships
- ◆ interacts, engages and responds throughout the process
- ◆ impacts upon the audience when showing the final run-through of the extract

The above areas will be awarded a maximum of 10 marks.

Designers

Designers will design a set for their chosen text and choose one other production role to complement this. They will demonstrate their design concept for the play (this may be through the production of plans, drawings, designs, plot sheets, mood boards). 30 marks will be allocated for set design and 20 marks for their additional production role, which will be selected from

lighting or sound or props or costume or make-up and hair. They will be given the opportunity to present their work to the Visiting Assessor, which should last approximately 20 minutes.

In a designing role the marks will be allocated according to how the candidate:

- ◆ responds to the text by referring to setting, period, plot, themes/issues, mood/atmosphere and environmental considerations contained in the play and produces creative and effective design concepts for the play and the actors
- ◆ produces working and final designs and ground plans for the specified performance space including elevations with reference to textual clues
- ◆ evidences development of ideas from initial thoughts, designs and research to final design concept
- ◆ responds to text to produce creative and effective notes/plotting sheets/plans/designs/cue sheets/drawings in relation to additional role selected from: either lighting or sound or props or costume or make-up and hair
- ◆ demonstrates practical skills in relation to the additional role by: either demonstration of lighting states (a minimum of seven lighting cues and five states should be designed and used in the lighting plot) or by demonstration of music/sound effects (a minimum of six different sound effects and eight sound cues should be included in the sound design) or with one made prop or with one made costume or by application of one make-up and hair

The above areas will be allocated a maximum of 10 marks.

Administrative information

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History of changes

Unit details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date

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