



Questions & Answers

National 5 Drama Webinar 11 November 2021

1 Performance: recommended group size and timings for session 2021-22

Does a group of five include actors as well as designers?

To minimise the physical interactions between candidates, it is recommended that groups consist of no more than five candidates. This includes actors and designers.

Can I just double check that group sizes include actors and designers so no more than five in each performance including all roles?

The recommended group size of five includes both actors and designers.

Can I have a group of five actors and have two designers working alongside them?

And

If you have one designer and five actors will that work?

To minimise the physical interactions between candidates, the recommended group size for session 2021-22 is five candidates. This is a recommendation and centres may decide on group sizes out with this number. If a centre chooses to exceed this recommended group size, it is important that all current government guidance has been followed and risk assessments have been carried out.

Is there any penalisation for group performances that go over 25 mins?

The performance should be of a sufficient length to allow candidates to demonstrate the required skills, knowledge and understanding. Should a performance significantly exceed or fall below the recommended timings, it is likely this will disadvantage candidates in the demonstration of their skills and assessors should use their professional judgement when applying the detailed marking instructions in such a case.

For a group of two actors plus three designers – would the actors do 6-8 minutes of acting or 15-20 minutes?

The recommended timings for the performance are dependent upon the number of actors in each group only. In this case, the recommended timings would therefore be 6-8 minutes.

2 Performance: selection of text

I have two male candidates who are doing a piece that was originally written for two females. Do they have to play as females, or can they play the roles as two males?

Candidates who are assessed for the Drama performance will have the option to choose roles that are the same as, or different from, the gender they identify with.

Teachers should use their professional judgement in the selection and suitability of roles for their candidates and the appropriateness of any adjustments to the original text.

For acting, are the candidates allowed to change the period of when the play was set?

As stated above, teachers are asked to use their professional judgement on the appropriateness of any adjustments to the original text. In the case of a change of period, such an adjustment should not contradict key textual references or themes.

3 Performance: production roles

I was wondering whether make-up would be allowed at National 5 this year?

If government health advice at the time of assessment allows, candidates can be assessed in this area by producing designs and charts for all characters. They must select suitable materials and tools and use them safely and hygienically, applying one character's make-up and hair design to themselves. Candidates should also demonstrate the design under theatrical lighting.

Does the elevation need to be scaled and measured?

The elevation does not require to be scaled and measured, though proportions and distance should be as accurate as possible.

What is the difference between personal and hand prop?

A hand prop is a prop picked up and used by one or more actors on stage (a book or a wine glass, for example). Hand props can also be consumable or perishable (food which is eaten, or a letter which is torn up, for example).

A personal prop is a prop an actor carries on their person to develop their character (a pipe, a cane, or a fan, for example).

Can pre-set props only be pre-set onstage? Or can they be pre-set on a props table?

Depending upon the requirements of the text, some pre-set props may initially be stored on the props table and pre-set onstage at a later point in the performance, for example.

Just checking that a two hander is fine for costume designer.

A performance involving a minimum of two actors is entirely suitable for all production roles.

4 Performance: arrangements for assessment

What happens if you have a candidate in your sample who is not there due to covid?

The candidates included in the sample of 12 can be changed up to and including on the day of assessment. Should you be presenting less than 12 candidates, the centre and visiting assessor could instead review any alternative evidence in place for the missing candidate, as outlined in the National Course modification summary: Drama document:

https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/modification-summary-drama.pdf

5 Question paper

Will the situation over make-up effect questions in the 2022 paper?

There is already optionality in the question paper component to enable candidates to answer from any production role. Should a candidate be assessed in make-up and hair in the performance component, they can answer from this perspective in section 1 of the paper. As with the preparation for performance, candidates may also use any evaluative questions in section 1 to refer to restraints that made an impact on their chosen production role and explain the ways these affected their thoughts and ideas, and final performance concepts.

Candidates may use the course assessment performance or any other performance they have taken part in during the course in responding to the questions in section 1 of the question paper.