



Questions & Answers

National 5 Drama webinar: 15 December 2022

1 performance

Can hair and make-up candidates apply make-up to others if they want to?

To support you and your candidates, the modifications to assessment that were in place for session 2021–22 remain in place for session 2022–23. For a make-up and hair designer, the guidance therefore remains that candidates can apply make-up and hair designs to themselves. This guidance is not mandatory, however, and centres are free to assess candidates applying make-up and hair designs to another student if this is the most suitable method of assessment for your candidates, providing appropriate risk assessment and cleaning regimes are in place.

There are limited examples on Understanding Standards of production areas. Will this be added to?

There are currently Understanding Standards examples of set design, sound design, lighting design, and costume design, which can all be accessed via the SQA secure site. We will continue to add to these examples in future, though it has been difficult to generate appropriate evidence over the past two sessions due to Covid mitigations and modifications. You can also contact amanda.gracie@sqa.org.uk for additional advice or support on any production area.

2 question paper

Can I check if the modifications for candidates having stimulus materials prior to the exam are still in place, as it was last year?

Whilst the modifications to assessment that were in place for session 2021–22 have been retained for session 2022–23, there are no changes to the published arrangements for the question paper component. The early publication of the stimulus materials in 2022 was an additional arrangement introduced to support candidates during the 2022 diet only, following the Covid-related disruption to learning and teaching caused by the Omicron variant. The stimuli for the 2023 National 5 Drama paper will not therefore be published in advance of the exam itself.

If the candidates will be able to view stimulus materials, should you allow pupils to view these also for the prelim?

As stated above, this additional support will not be in place for the 2023 diet and centres may therefore not wish to allow their candidates to view the stimulus materials in advance of any internal assessment, to replicate the experience of the final question paper as closely as possible. Centres have the flexibility to arrange these internal assessments in whichever manner is most suited to their candidates at the point they choose to assess them, however,

and may wish to make stimulus material available in advance to support their candidates at that point in their course, using their own professional judgement.

What would be considered an appropriate response for other advantages of different types of staging?

Markers are advised to accept as broad an interpretation as possible of potential advantages of specific types of staging, recognising that responses represent a candidates' understanding of the type of staging within the context of their own centre. Advantages may include examples such as the audience all viewing the drama from one perspective (end-on), the type of staging being representative of the conflict within the plot as two sides face one another (traverse), enabling a character to move closer to the audience (thrust), or communicating a theme such as entrapment (in-the-round). The key guidance to offer candidates here is that answers must be positive and not negative (ie a candidate shouldn't justify one type of staging by explaining why another type of staging is less suitable).