

X821/76/11 Drama

Marking Instructions

Please note that these marking instructions have not been standardised based on candidate responses. You may therefore need to agree within your centre how to consistently mark an item if a candidate response is not covered by the marking instructions.



General marking principles for Higher Drama

Always apply these general principles. Use them in conjunction with the detailed marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidates' responses.

- (a) Always use positive marking. This means candidates accumulate marks for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding; marks are not deducted for errors or omissions.
- (b) If a candidate response does not seem to be covered by either the principles or detailed marking instructions, and you are uncertain how to assess it, you must seek guidance from your team leader.
- (c) For **describe** questions, candidates must provide a statement or structure of characteristics and/or features. This is more than an outline or a list; they may refer to, for example, a concept, process, situation, experiment or facts.
 - For **explain** questions, candidates must relate cause and effect and/or make relationships between things clear.
 - For **analyse** questions, candidates must identify parts, the relationship between them, and their relationships with the whole; and draw out and relate implications.
- (d) To gain marks, points must relate to the question asked. We use the term 'or any other relevant response' to allow for possible variation in candidates' responses. Always award marks according to the accuracy and relevance of an answer.

Section 1 — Theatre production: Text in context

- (a) Candidates answer one question from a choice of six. There are two questions each from the perspective of a director, an actor, or a designer. Each question is divided into two parts; candidates must demonstrate knowledge of a selected text, and how they would use their chosen concepts to achieve dramatic impact.
- (b) Some candidates may prefer to answer the first part of the question (knowledge of text) point by point, followed by their explanation of their production concepts, point by point. Other candidates may prefer to describe all of their knowledge of text in one go, followed by details of all of their production concepts in one block. Accept either approach.
- (c) To gain marks, points must relate to the question asked and both parts of the response must relate to each other. If they do not, then do not award marks to the second part of the response.
- (d) Textual references must include relevant quotes and/or stage directions.

Section 2 — Theatre production: Application

- (a) Candidates respond to a structured question on two production areas related to their selected text. They must answer all parts of the question.
- (b) Candidates must demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the ways in which the production areas of acting, directing and design could be applied to their text. Two of these areas are sampled each year. They do not need to give textual references in this section.
- (c) Candidates must use correct theatre terminology in their responses.

Section 3 — Performance Analysis

- (a) Candidates answer one question from a choice of two. Candidates produce a written analysis of a performance that they have seen. The play must be different from the selected text in Sections 1 and 2.
- (b) The performance analysis may be of a live performance, a live-streamed performance, or, if necessary, a recorded 'live' theatrical performance.
- (c) The performance must be a play, not a musical, pantomime or movement piece. Appropriate amateur performances may be used, providing candidates have the opportunity to meet the criteria for this section.
- (d) Candidates select two aspects from the following list of performance analysis areas
 - choice and use of the performance space
 - director's intentions and effectiveness
 - acting and development of characters
 - design concepts and their effectiveness.

Marking instructions for each question

Section 1 — Theatre production: Text in context

| Question | | Expected response | Max mark | Additional guidance |
|----------|--|--|-------------|--|
| 1. | | In the first part of their response candidates must demonstrate knowledge of their text by describing, in detail, five aspects of their selected text's social and/or historical context they wish to make clear to an audience. Award marks for the quality of the descriptions given. Candidates must give an extended response and must use textual references to justify their answer. Award 1 mark for each relevant point of understanding that is used to respond to the question. Award a further mark for each point of development of understanding. Up to a total of 10 marks for this part of the question. | 20 | The candidate may select from the following in their answer • reference to the social context of the play • historical context of the play • setting • time period • stage imagery • plot • plot twists • plot structure • themes and issues • dramatic tension • conflict between characters • dramatic irony • particular events/happenings • character motivation • character behaviour • character development • revelations. Or any other relevant feature. |

| Question | Expected response | Max mark | Additional guidance |
|----------|---|-------------|---|
| | In the second part of their response candidates must explain, in detail, five directing concepts that would help them to achieve their desired dramatic impact. Award marks for the quality of the explanations given. Award 1 mark for each relevant directing concept. Award a further mark for each point of development of each directing concept. Candidates must make a connection between their descriptions in the first part of their answer and their explanations in the second part of their answer. Up to a total of 10 marks available | | The candidate may select from the following in their answer • pre-show • stage proxemics • positioning • use of levels • casting • characterisation • character interaction • acting style • voice and movement techniques • actor/audience relationship • rehearsal techniques • use of production areas • drama media (projections, video footage, soundscapes etc) • special effects. Or any other relevant feature. |
| | for this part of the question. | | |

| Q | Question | | Expected response | Max mark | Additional guidance |
|----|----------|--|--|-------------|---|
| 2. | | | This question has two parts. In the first part of their response candidates must demonstrate knowledge of their text by describing, in detail, five aspects of the play that make it a turning point. Award marks for the quality of the descriptions given. Candidates must give an extended response and must use textual references to justify their answer. Award 1 mark for each relevant point of understanding that is used to respond to the question. Award a further mark for each point of development of understanding. Up to a total of 10 marks for this part of the question. | 20 | The candidate may select from the following in their answer plot plot plot twists plot structure themes and issues dramatic tension conflict between characters dramatic irony particular events/happenings character motivation character behaviour character development character status revelations. Or any other relevant feature. |

| Question | Expected response | Max mark | Additional guidance |
|----------|--|-------------|--|
| | In the second part of their response candidates must explain, in detail, five directing concepts that would help them to achieve their desired dramatic impact. Award marks for the quality of the explanations given. Award 1 mark for each relevant directing concept. Award a further mark for each point of development of each directing concept. Candidates must make a connection between their descriptions in the first part of their answer and their explanations in the second part of their answer. Up to a total of 10 marks available for this part of the question. | | The candidate may select from the following in their answer characterisation character interaction relationships between characters stage proxemics acting style voice and movement techniques rehearsal techniques use of production skills actor/audience relationship special effects drama media (projections, video footage, soundscapes etc) setting stage imagery. Or any other relevant feature. |

| Q | Question | | Expected response | Max mark | Additional guidance |
|----|----------|--|--|-------------|--|
| 3. | | | This question has two parts. In the first part of their response candidates must demonstrate knowledge of their text by describing, in detail, five instances when this character's social background influences their motivation(s). Award marks for the quality of the descriptions given. Candidates must give an extended response and must use textual references to justify their answer. Award 1 mark for each relevant point of understanding that is used to respond to the question. Award a further mark for each point of development of understanding. Up to a total of 10 marks for this part of the question. | 20 | The candidate may select from the following in their answer themes and issues revelations social/historical background purpose dramatic tension conflict between characters dramatic irony particular events/happenings character motivation character status character development character behaviour the relationship between the characters character interaction plot plot twists. Or any other relevant feature. |

| Question | Expected response | Max mark | Additional guidance |
|----------|---|-------------|---|
| | In the second part of their response candidates must explain, in detail, five acting concepts that would help them to achieve their desired dramatic impact. Award marks for the quality of the explanations given. Award 1 mark for each relevant acting concept. Award a further mark for each point of development of each acting concept. Candidates must make a connection between their descriptions in the first part of their answer and their explanations in the second part of their answer. Up to a total of 10 marks available for this part of the question. | | The candidate may select from the following in their answer acting techniques acting style stage proxemics the different ways that the actor uses his/her voice the different ways that the actor uses his/her movement themes and issues the relationship between spoken text and physical movement or gesture use of props and costume. Or any other relevant feature. |

| Q | uestion | n | Expected response | Max mark | Additional guidance |
|----|---------|---|---|-------------|---|
| 4. | | | This question has two parts. In the first part of their response candidates must demonstrate knowledge of their text by describing, in detail, five ways their chosen character demonstrates that they conform to or rebel against their circumstances and/or society throughout the play. Award marks for the quality of the descriptions given. Candidates must give an extended response and must use textual references to justify their answer. Award 1 mark for each relevant point of understanding that is used to respond to the question. Award a further mark for each point of development of understanding. Up to a total of 10 marks for this part of the question. | 20 | The candidate may select from the following in their answer historical/social/cultural contexts themes and issues revelations dramatic tension conflict between characters dramatic irony particular events/happenings character status character motivation character development character behaviour the relationship between the characters character interaction plot plot twists. Or any other relevant feature. |

| Question | Expected response | Max mark | Additional guidance |
|----------|---|-------------|---|
| | In the second part of their response candidates must explain, in detail, five acting concepts that would help them to achieve their desired dramatic impact. Award marks for the quality of the explanations given. Award 1 mark for each relevant acting concept. Award a further mark for each point of development of each acting concept. Candidates must make a connection between their descriptions in the first part of their answer and their explanations in the second part of their answer. Up to a total of 10 marks available for this part of the question. | | The candidate may select from the following in their answer acting techniques acting style stage proxemics the different ways that the actor uses his/her voice the different ways that the actor uses his/her movement the relationship between spoken text and physical movement or gesture use of props use of costume use of make-up and hair. Or any other relevant feature. |

| Question | | Expected response | Max mark | Additional guidance |
|----------|--|---|-------------|--|
| 5. | | In the first part of their response candidates must demonstrate knowledge of their text by describing, in detail, five moments when the genre is communicated to an audience. Award marks for the quality of the descriptions given. Candidates must give an extended response and must use textual references to justify their answer. Award 1 mark for each relevant point of understanding that is used to respond to the question. Award a further mark for each point of development of understanding. Up to a total of 10 marks for this part of the question. | 20 | The candidate may select from the following in their answer • genre • style • setting • stage imagery • establishing mood and atmosphere • period • historical, social or cultural issues • message and/or purpose • plot • plot twists • tension • themes/issues • revelations • character motivation • character development • character interaction. Or any other relevant feature. |

| Question | Expected response | Max mark | Additional guidance |
|----------|---|-------------|---|
| | In the second part of their response candidates must explain, in detail, five design concepts that would help them to achieve their desired dramatic impact. Award marks for the quality of the explanations given. Award 1 mark for each relevant design concept. Award a further mark for each point of development of each design concept. Candidates must make a connection between their descriptions in the first part of their answer and their explanations in the second part of their answer. Up to a total of 10 marks available for this part of the question. | | The candidate may select from the following in their answer pre-show actor/audience relationship set design period shifts in time stage configuration lighting sound costume props drama media make-up and hair masks wigs special effects fabrics; colours styles use of tools and materials. Or any other relevant feature. |

| Question | | Expected response | Max mark | Additional guidance |
|----------|--|--|-------------|---|
| 6. | | In the first part of their response candidates must demonstrate knowledge of their text by describing, in detail, five ways in which the location(s) indicated in their selected text are important to the audience's understanding of the play. Award marks for the quality of the descriptions given. Candidates must give an extended response and must use textual references to justify their answer. Award 1 mark for each relevant point of understanding that is used to respond to the question. Award a further mark for each point of development of understanding. Up to a total of 10 marks for this part of the question. | 20 | The candidate may select from the following in their answer venue setting staging period plot mood themes/issues character motivation character development character interaction relationship between characters. Or any other relevant feature. |

| Question | Expected response | Max mark | Additional guidance |
|----------|---|-------------|---|
| | In the second part of their response candidates must explain, in detail, five design concepts that would help them to achieve their desired dramatic impact. Award marks for the quality of the explanations given. Award 1 mark for each relevant design concept. Award a further mark for each point of development of each design concept. Candidates must make a connection between their descriptions in the first part of their answer and their explanations in the second part of their answer. Up to a total of 10 marks available for this part of the question. | | The candidate may select from the following in their answer venue set design staging period shifts in time stage configuration actor/audience relationship lighting sound costume props drama media age personality status, changes in status immediate circumstances costume fabrics, colour and style make-up and hair, materials and tools. Or any other relevant feature. |

 ${\bf Section} \ {\bf 2-Theatre} \ production; \ {\bf Application}$

| Q | Question | | Expected response | Max mark | Additional guidance |
|----|----------|--|--|-------------|---|
| 7. | (a) | | This question is in three parts. In the first part of this question, the candidate is required to demonstrate knowledge of their text. Candidates must describe the theme or issue their character communicates at a key moment. Award marks for the quality of the descriptions given. Award 1 mark for a relevant description. Award a further mark for a point of development. Up to a total of 2 marks available for this question. | 2 | The candidate may select from the following in their answer social circumstance economic status character relationship(s) plot twists change in location a change in circumstances gender issues class issues class issues society's attitude individual attitude action of the play conflict tension. Or any other relevant feature. |

| Question | Expected response | Max mark | Additional guidance |
|----------|--|-------------|---|
| (b) | In the second part of this question, candidates must describe, as an actor, the way in which they would use voice and/or movement during a key moment in order to communicate the theme or issue to an audience. Candidates must use correct theatre terminology in their response. Award marks for relevant acting concepts. Award 2 marks for detailed and insightful comment. Award 1 mark for more basic comment. Award marks 2 + 2 or 2 + 1 + 1 or 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 They may be awarded for voice only or movement only or a combination of both concepts. | 4 | The candidate may select from the following in their answer. The appropriate adjective must be used to accurately describe the term. Voice accent articulation clarity emphasis fluency intonation pace pause pitch projection register rhythm tone volume. Movement abstract balance body language eye contact facial expression gesture mannerisms mime naturalistic positioning posture proxemics rhythm speed stance stylised timing use of direction use of space. |

| Question | Expected response | Max mark | Additional guidance |
|----------|---|-------------|--|
| (c) | In the third part of this question candidates must describe, as a designer, the costume they would design for a character in order to communicate the theme or issue to an audience during a key moment. Candidates must use correct theatre terminology in their response. Award marks for relevant design concepts. Award 2 marks for detailed and insightful comment. Award 1 mark for more basic comment. Up to a total of 4 marks available for this question. Award marks 2 + 2 or 2 + 1 + 1 or 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 | 4 | The candidate may select from the following in their answer • fabric • colour • fit • shape • texture • style • movement of the fabric • naturalistic • non-naturalistic • decoration • trimmings • length • cut and structure • condition. Or any other relevant feature. |

Section 3 — Performance analysis

The performance analysis may be of a live performance, a live-streamed performance, or, if necessary, a recorded 'live' theatrical performance.

The performance must be a play, not a musical, pantomime or movement piece. Appropriate amateur performances may be used, providing candidates have the opportunity to meet the criteria for this section.

The play must be different from the selected text in Sections 1 and 2.

| Question | Expected response | Max mark | Additional guidance |
|----------|---|-------------|--|
| 8. | Candidates focus on one performance and choose two production areas that they use to analyse character personalities and/or attitudes. They must give equal weighting in their response to the two chosen production areas. Award 1 mark for identification and explanation of each feature of the performance that shows the ways in which character personalities and/or attitudes were communicated. Award a further mark for each explanation that is detailed and insightful. Candidates should draw out the implications of each feature in regard to achieving dramatic impact and enhancing appreciation of the performance. If a candidate analyses all four production areas, then mark all four and award marks for the best two. Up to a total of 10 marks available for each production area. | 20 | Choice and use of the performance space. Candidates may refer to performance venue atmosphere of the performance venue pre-show staging choice actor/audience relationship stage positioning auditorium configuration and audience position/sightlines impact of set changes of set visual imagery use of digital media projections. Or any other relevant feature. Director's intentions and effectiveness. Candidates may refer to type of performance — text/non text/other interpretative choices made communication of plot themes/issues characterisation preparation and research genre style overall directorial concept acting style actor/audience relationship rehearsal workshops/character workshops period design concepts |

| Question | Expected response | Max mark | Additional guidance |
|----------|-------------------|-------------|---|
| | | mark | casting decisions level of appropriateness/ innovation/creativity/success of directorial intentions. Or any other relevant feature. Acting and development of characters. Candidates may refer to the overall production concept acting style pre-show period characterisation number of parts the actor plays different ways that the actor uses their voice different ways that the actor uses their movement relationship between spoken text and physical movement or gesture interaction with other actors throughout the performance working as an ensemble the actor's use of props and/or costume the actor/audience relationship changes in mood/atmosphere level of appropriateness/ innovation/creativity/success of use of acting. |
| | | | Or any other relevant feature. |

| Question | Expected response | Max mark | Additional guidance |
|----------|-------------------|-------------|--|
| | | | Design concepts and their effectiveness. The candidate can select design concepts from any of the following production areas in their answer. Sound • the overall production concept • pre-show • period • sources • naturalistic sound FX • abstract sound FX • live sound FX • live sound FX • use of music • use of soundscapes • the part sound plays in suggestion • the part sound plays in the creation of expectation • building tension • releasing tension • the on-stage world (related to a character) • the off-stage world (related to the imagined world) • changes in mood/atmosphere • changes in location • environmental sound FX • level of appropriateness/ innovation/creativity/success of use of sound. Or any other relevant feature. |

| Question | Expected response | Max mark | Additional guidance |
|----------|-------------------|-------------|---|
| | | | the overall production concept time period location changing locations central metaphor visual images visual environment style and tone illusionistic setting or stylised setting texture colour use of scenic flats stage cloths backcloths gauze cyclorama use of rostra projections the on-stage world; the off-stage world level of appropriateness/innovation/creativity/success of use of set. Or any other relevant feature. |

| Question | Expected response | Max mark | Additional guidance |
|----------|-------------------|-------------|--|
| | | | Costume • the overall production concept • period • style • age • personality • status • location • occupation • occasion • immediate circumstances • fabrics/materials • colours • proportion • texture • a representational approach • use of abstract ideas • use of expressionistic ideas • the on-stage world; the off-stage world • changes in mood/atmosphere • level of appropriateness/innovation/creativity/success of use of costume. Or any other relevant feature. |

| Question | Expected response | Max mark | Additional guidance |
|----------|-------------------|-------------|--|
| | | | Lighting the overall production concept pre-show period sources naturalistic LX stylised LX changes in mood/atmosphere changes in tension changes in location use of colour/intensity/effects — gobos/strobe fades including blackouts projections how lighting was used to communicate time/location level of appropriateness/ innovation/creativity/success of use of lighting. Or any other relevant feature. Props personal/hand-held/pre-set props the overall production concept period style age personality status location occupation occupation occasion immediate circumstances fabrics/materials colours proportion texture a representational approach use of abstract ideas use of expressionistic ideas the on-stage world; the off-stage world changes in mood/atmosphere level of appropriateness/ innovation/creativity/success of use of props. Or any other relevant feature. |

| Question | Expected response | Max mark | Additional guidance |
|----------|-------------------|-------------|--|
| | | | Hair and Make-up the overall production concept period style age personality status occupation occasion immediate circumstances choice and application of materials colours special effects make-up masks wigs texture a representational approach use of abstract ideas use of expressionistic ideas the on-stage world; the off-stage world changes in mood/atmosphere level of appropriateness/innovation/creativity/success of use of hair and make-up. Or any other relevant feature. Candidates may explore multiple production areas within their design concepts. This is acceptable. |

| Question Expected response | Max mark Additional guidance |
|---|--|
| Candidates focus on one performance and choose two production areas that they use analyse stage imagery. They m give equal weighting in their response to the two chosen production areas. Award 1 mark for identification explanation of each feature of stage imagery used to create a impact during a performance on play. Award a further mark for each explanation that is detailed and insightful. Candidates should draw out the implications of each feature in regard to achieving dramatic in and enhancing appreciation of performance. If a candidate analyses all four production areas, then mark all and award marks for the best to the total of 10 marks avail for each production area. | candidates may refer to performance venue atmosphere of the performance venue pre-show staging choice actor/audience relationship stage positioning auditorium configuration and audience position/sightlines impact of set changes of set visual imagery use of digital media projections. Or any other relevant feature. Director's intentions and effectiveness. four Candidates may refer to |

| Que | estion | Expected response | Max mark | Additional guidance |
|-----|--------|-------------------|-------------|--|
| Que | estion | Expected response | - | Acting and development of characters. Candidates may refer to • the overall production concept • acting style • pre-show • period • characterisation • number of parts the actor plays • different ways that the actor uses their voice • different ways that the actor uses their movement • relationship between spoken text and physical movement or gesture • interaction with other actors throughout the performance • working as an ensemble • the actor's use of props and/or costume • the actor/audience relationship • changes in mood/atmosphere • level of appropriateness/ |
| | | | | innovation/creativity/success of use of acting. Or any other relevant feature. |

| Question | Expected response | Max mark | Additional guidance |
|----------|-------------------|-------------|---|
| | | | Design concepts and their effectiveness. The candidate can select design concepts from any of the following production areas in their answer. Sound • the overall production concept • pre-show • period • sources • naturalistic sound FX • abstract sound FX • live sound FX • live sound FX • use of music • use of soundscapes • the part sound plays in suggestion • the part sound plays in the creation of expectation • building tension • releasing tension • the on-stage world (related to a character) • the off-stage world (related to the imagined world) • changes in mood/atmosphere • changes in location • environmental sound FX • level of appropriateness/innovation/creativity/success of use of sound. Or any other relevant feature. |

| Question Expected response mark Additional guidance | е |
|---|-----------|
| Set the overall production of time period location changing locations central metaphor visual images visual environment style and tone illusionistic setting or stysetting texture colour use of scenic flats stage cloths backcloths gauze cyclorama use of rostra projections the on-stage world; the world level of appropriateness innovation/creativity/suuse of set. Or any other relevant featur | off-stage |

| Question | Expected response | Max mark | Additional guidance |
|----------|-------------------|-------------|--|
| | | | Costume • the overall production concept • period • style • age • personality • status • location • occupation • occasion • immediate circumstances • fabrics/materials • colours • proportion • texture • a representational approach • use of abstract ideas • use of expressionistic ideas • the on-stage world; the off-stage world • changes in mood/atmosphere • level of appropriateness/innovation/creativity/success of use of costume. Or any other relevant feature. |

| Question | Expected response | Max mark | Additional guidance |
|----------|-------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| | | | Lighting |

| Question | Expected response | Max mark | Additional guidance |
|----------|-------------------|-------------|--|
| | | | the overall production concept period style age personality status occupation occasion immediate circumstances choice and application of materials colours special effects make-up masks wigs texture a representational approach use of abstract ideas use of expressionistic ideas the on-stage world; the off-stage world changes in mood/atmosphere level of appropriateness/innovation/creativity/success of use of hair and make-up. Or any other relevant feature. Candidates may explore multiple production areas within their design concepts. This is acceptable. |

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]