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# 2

91215



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## Level 2 Drama, 2015

### 91215 Discuss a drama or theatre form or period with reference to a text

2.00 p.m. Wednesday 25 November 2015  
Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Discuss a drama or theatre form or period with reference to a text.	Discuss a drama or theatre form or period with reference to a text showing informed understanding.	Discuss a drama or theatre form or period with reference to a text showing perceptive understanding.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

**You should attempt ALL the questions in this booklet.**

If you need more room for any answer, use the extra space provided at the back of this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

**YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.**

**Not Achieved**

**TOTAL**

**4**

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To answer the questions in this paper, name the drama/theatre form or period you have studied, and ONE text from the form or period to which you will refer. (If the text was not written as a script – as for example in commedia dell’arte – give brief details of the action.)

Drama/theatre form or period: //Shakespeare//

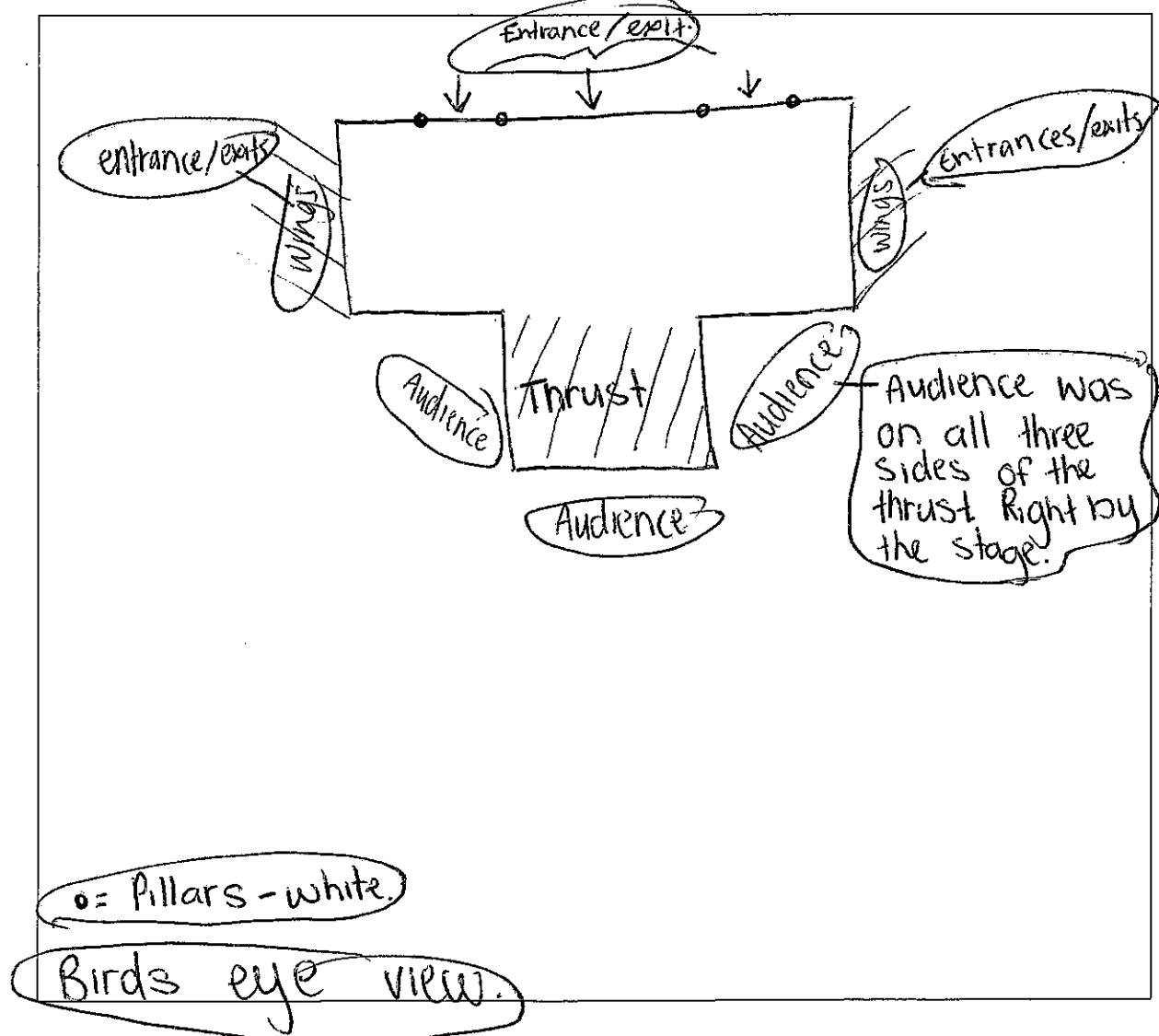
Title of the text (or summary of the action): //Macbeth//

Playwright (if applicable): //William Shakespeare//

**QUESTION ONE: THE ACTING SPACE**

(a) Sketch the acting space that would typically have been used to perform your chosen text. Annotate your sketch to clearly show:

- the shape and position of the acting space ✓
- the shape and position of the audience space ✓
- entrances and exits to and from the acting space ✓
- key pieces of set or staging.



(b) Explain how the actors would typically have used this space in a key scene from the text. Give specific details from the text to support your answer.

"All hail king ~~Mac~~ Macbeth!" When this was spoken Macbeth was standing in the centre of the of the thrust with the audience on all three sides of him. This would have helped show that Macbeth was above all and held the power on all the plebians. By doing this it was ~~as if~~ as if the town folk were carrying Macbeth and Macbeth finally had ~~what~~ what he wanted and could now treat the town folk / audience as Peasants

(c) Discuss how the acting space affected the audience's experience of the performance. You might consider:

- the interaction between actors and the audience
- the use of theatre technologies of the time
- the audience's experience in other theatre forms or periods.

By the use of a thrust stage it meant the audience could connect with the actors in a personal way and the actor could really interact and involve the audience. During Shakespeare's time ~~the~~ theatre was only just getting money as Queen Elizabeth the first was putting money towards it. This meant there was very little theatre technologies which meant many actors wore their own clothes, it was a very simple set, there were no microphones so the actors had to project their voice and also there was no special lighting so natural daylight was incorporated into performance this ~~many~~ means plays were often performed at sun up or sun down, to get the change ~~and~~ in lighting. All of this meant the actor had to really involve themselves with the audience to gain and maintain their attention.

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The examination continues on the following page.

## QUESTION TWO: A LANGUAGE FEATURE

Identify a language feature that is typical of your chosen form or period. If the form is traditionally silent, you may identify a feature of body language.

Language feature:

Superstition

(a) Describe this language feature, and give an example of the feature in your chosen text.

Shakespeare's ~~the~~ plays were during the time of witches and ghosts which are very superstitious things. ~~It is~~ In Macbeth Shakespeare concentrated strongly on witches. A lady ~~who~~ had knowledge was not something you wanted to be during this time and Shakespeare incorporated this into his writing by making them seem sinister.

(b) Explain how an actor would use the drama techniques of voice, body, movement, and/or use of space typical of the form or period to perform this example. Give specific details to support your answer.

First of all this scene would have been performed most likely at sun down because "at night is when the witches come out to play". This adds to the mysteriousness of ~~the~~ witches. The witches would have been portrayed as hunch back old ladies to keep the audiences interest, rather than someone with a normal sized book ~~that~~ they had a giant cauldron adding a spooky effect. Also the actors would've been wearing black ragged clothing to show they were not accepted as a normal person. The actor also would've put on a husky voice, once again to show mystery and abnormality.

(c) Discuss how the use of this language feature is typical of the form or period. You might consider:

- the style of the form (e.g. realistic, surrealist)
- the time and place in which the form was performed
- the purpose of the playwright or creator(s) of the text.

Many people during Shakespeares ~~era~~ did not know how to read or write so by repeating and building tension was how they formed superstition. Shakespeares play really related to the reality of the time period as many people believed in bad omens and that if you sinned the gods would get revenge. ~~As~~ mentioned earlier the plays would be performed at either sun rise or sunset this helped form the gloomy feeling of superstition. Also plays had only just started being performed in theatres rather than on the streets which meant being in a theatre was still airy for most of the audience giving extra effect. Shakespeares purpose was to portray the reality of the time making the audience feel involved and sometimes even causing outbursts with in the audience.

## QUESTION THREE: A THEME OR IDEA

(a) Describe ONE theme or key idea from your chosen text.

A key theme from Shakespeare's plays and very evident in Macbeth is power. Everyone wants to be on the top of the ladder with everyone obeying their orders but in Macbeth everyone was doing anything they could so they could rise to the top of the ladder.

(b) Explain what a character does or says to communicate this theme or idea to the audience. Give specific details from the text to support your answer.

Macbeth is a key character that really shows us how power hungry everyone was and what they would go through to get to the top. Macbeth strives to rule everyone and is not afraid to kill to get there. Macbeth slaughters and beheads everyone in front of him that is in line for the throne so he can have all the power. It is not until the end where everyone finds out his true intentions and he gets what he deserved that everyone else realises its their aspirations as well which starts a big war.

(c) Discuss the importance of this theme or idea to the people originally in the audience. You might refer to:

- social structures (e.g. class systems)
- the geographical or historical context
- moral or cultural values.

During Shakespeare's era there was a hierarchy in the social structure and no one ever wants to be at the bottom of the hierarchy. This really forms the play as it shows the importance of structure and the brutality of the time. Macbeth was set in Scotland during the time where to be king meant many things including everyone bowing down to you. But as shown in Macbeth when the reality of this hit, everyone was in uproar about it and wanted the strength of this position.

Annotation for Not Achieved paper AS 91215 L2 Drama 2015

Q1 Candidate has drawn and labeled a thrust stage and position of audience indicating some knowledge of a typical acting space. To achieve a higher grade, student would have needed to show clear position and labels for other features like the trap door, and the pillars to support the painted heavens, for example. Candidate demonstrated knowledge of the need for the actor to perform to three sides. N2

Q2: Candidate identified Superstition as a language feature. Although student said Shakespeare "incorporated this into his writing" there was no evident example of this from the text in their justification. N0

Q3: Candidate identifies generally the theme of power in Macbeth by saying "everyone wants to be on top of the ladder." N2