

90998



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Level 1 Drama, 2016

90998 Demonstrate understanding of features of a drama/theatre form

9.30 a.m. Friday 2 December 2016
Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Demonstrate understanding of features of a drama/theatre form.	Demonstrate informed understanding of features of a drama/theatre form.	Demonstrate perceptive understanding of features of a drama/theatre form.

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.

Excellence

TOTAL

23

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INSTRUCTIONS

In this paper you are to discuss features of a drama/theatre form you have studied. Drama/theatre forms include (but are not limited to):

- clowning
- commedia dell'arte
- Elizabethan theatre
- Greek theatre
- medieval drama
- melodrama
- musical theatre
- pantomime
- puppetry.

Read the questions carefully before you begin your answers.

Answer ALL of the questions using the same drama/theatre form.

Drama/theatre form: Greek Tragedy //

QUESTION ONE: THE PURPOSE OF A CHARACTER

The purpose of a character or role could be to entertain, to educate, to provoke, or something else.

Choose a well-known character or typical role that would have originally appeared in your chosen drama/theatre form.

Character/role: Tragic hero //

(a) Describe the purpose of this character/role:

The tragic hero would be a character that audience members can aspire to be. This character usually has majority good admirable qualities, but also a fatal flaw. The purpose of this character was to show the audience that even great heroes have their faults and are therefore below the gods. This forces the audience to reflect on themselves and compare them to the hero. It forces them to accept humility as even someone as great as the hero eventually reaches their downfall, how much more so does this apply to the viewers. //

- (b) Explain how an actor playing the character or role would have used drama techniques to communicate this purpose in the performance.

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An actor playing his role would start off displaying his greatness and confidence. An upright posture would be used and long divinitive stride when moving to show he has a purpose and will not let others get in his way. In Greek theatre, masks were used to display the character's main emotions during different parts of the play. Therefore instead of using facial expressions to portray the character, the actor would rely on voice techniques. A loud volume and projection would be used to further show the character's confidence. Because of the setting of Greek plays traditionally in the large theatre in Athens, the actor also wouldn't use individual mannerisms such as fidgeting to portray the character, as the audience wouldn't be able to see this from the distance, but instead full body turns and long held gestures would be used by the actor. This also further develops a regal and sophisticated appearance as many of the Greek heroes were of royal descent. After the hero's tragic fall, the actor would then use voice to portray his agony and pain at his fall, to emphasise to the audience the severity of his downfall. The actor would also take on a more bent posture now and may stumble when moving, depending on the nature of his character's fall.

(c) Explain how the character's purpose relates to the wider purpose of the drama/theatre form. You could consider:

- the audience's expectations
- the politics of the time
- the delivery of important messages.

In the time of Greek theatre, acting and the plays had a strong political and religious connotation. To attend plays was seen as a duty of the citizens and if they were unable to attend, someone would pay for them to allow them to be there. The audience's expectation was to be entertained, but more so, theatre was used to relay moral and religious values to the citizens. This relates back to the roots of this theatre form that started with the festival of Dionysia and dithyrambs (choral songs) were performed in honour of the gods. The purpose of the tragic hero was to show someone whom the citizens could look up to and then display how his hamartia (fatal flaw) ultimately causes his tragic downfall. This shows the wider purpose of the theatre form which was to remind citizens of their duty to the gods. For example in the play: Oedipus Rex, by Sophocles, Oedipus, the tragic hero exclaims after his downfall: "It was Apollo friends, he ordained my agonies, but the hand that struck me was my own" showing clearly that Apollo (a Greek god) was the one that sought to punish him, but by saying he caused it himself the citizens knew he was referring to his hamartia (fatal flaw) that was the arrogance that he displayed throughout the play. The citizens know that it was his defiance of the gods that led to his punishment and the plays of the time were a warning against his self-determinism and lack of respect for the gods. //

QUESTION TWO: A TYPICAL TECHNOLOGY

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Choose a technology that would have originally appeared in a performance of your chosen drama/theatre form. For example:

- costume
- props
- sound
- lighting
- set
- special effects.

Technology: mask

- (a) Describe or make an annotated sketch to show a way this technology would have been used in a specific moment or scene in a typical performance of the drama/theatre form.

// This shows a mask that would be used after the hero's anagnorisis (great discovery) and it shows the intense pain the character faces at their downfall. In the play Oedipus Rex: this would be the moment when Oedipus discovers the truth of what he has done. Masks are used to emphasise a character's emotion and it allows audience members to see the expression from far away, as the mask exaggerates the facial features. //

Quote from Oedipus Rex: "cursed in birth, cursed in marriage, cursed in the lives I cut down with these hands"

very delineated features

Shows his intense agony and can be seen from large distance.

hair made from animal hair



Onkos - shows his former royal status.

exaggerated facial features - can be seen from a distance

large mouth hole - has an impact on resonance

made from linen over wooden frame so it can be lightweight.

onkos also elevates him so audience can easily see him above other characters.

- (b) Explain how this technology would have been used to show place or role, or to create mood or tension in this moment.

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The mask is an extension of the role in that the actor always wears a mask when onstage. The masks were seen to be the role of the character of gods they were portraying and when an actor wore the mask it was seen as him becoming his character. In this moment of great discovery of the truth of the character's downfall, the mask is used to show the audience their pain. In the play Oedipus Rex, Oedipus is later on called "man of misery" and we can see that this mask is a reflection of the misery and agony that he faces. It creates a pitiful mood in that the audience are exposed directly to his intense pain and they feel a sense of sympathy for the character.

(c) Explain how this technology represents aspects of the time period of the drama/theatre form.

You could consider:

- available materials
- social expectations
- traditions or trends.

Greek Theatre took place around the time of the 5th century BC. in its more sophisticated form (before that it was more primitive and the plays more basic). Around that time the main purposes of the plays were to reflect and provide instruction on religious matters. The technology of masks were used in all Greek plays. This is because the Greeks believed that when the actor is on stage he no longer represents himself but he becomes the character. Masks were particularly useful for actors who were portraying gods, but all actors on stage wore masks. This was also a reflection of tradition of the time, where women were to stay at home and were not considered to be citizens. Masks meant that ^{the} male actors could also portray female roles. Greek Theatre also started off with only one main actor who needed to portray different roles, so masks were used to achieve this. Another aspect of Greek Theatre that meant masks were a prominent feature in the plays were that it was initially performed in the large theatre of Athens in which audience members could find themselves up to 300 feet away from the action. So masks were used to exaggerate the facial expression so that it can be seen from great distances.

QUESTION THREE: INTERACTION WITH THE AUDIENCE

- (a) Describe where the audience would have been seated or placed during a typical performance of your chosen drama/theatre form.

//Greek tragedies would typically be performed in the Theatre of Athens. This theatre is built on the natural hillside of Athens and the theatron (viewing space) where the audience were seated was in the form of a ~~large~~ large semi-circle that surrounded the orchestra and was approximately 300 feet in diameter. The theatron was divided into 2 tiers of seating with a small path between the front and back section and essentially the audience viewed the play from 3 main angles that the actors would need to face in order for the entire semicircle to be able to see.

- (b) Explain how the placement of audience members allowed actors to interact with them. You could consider how their placement:

- allowed for physical and/or verbal interaction
- engaged the audience in the action.

//The audience were in this semi-circle and in front of them was the orchestra (dancing space) this was where the chorus would perform. Main actors were usually further back on the proskenion that was a raised platform behind the orchestra. As the chorus was made up of regular citizens, who were specially selected and trained for this occasion, it allowed the audience to feel directly part of the action, having the chorus between them and the actors as a representation for all of them. The placement of the audience meant they could see each other's reactions and the direct interaction of the chorus with the main actors meant that the audience could feel involved in the play.

(c) Explain what this interaction contributed to the overall performance. You could consider how the interaction:

- affected the action on stage
- inspired the audience to take action
- improved the communication of a key idea.

The interaction of the chorus with the main actors improved the communication of key messages of the play. The chorus spoke in unison and they would often directly question the main actors. The audience looked toward the chorus to see the way in which they as citizens were expected to react. This inspired the audience to take action as they were more directly invested in the action on stage. The action on stage was affected in that they were held accountable by the chorus which represented the citizens. The interaction of the main characters with the chorus meant that playwrights could dictate what their expected and ideal reaction from audience members should be. Actors still had to direct their action in such a way that the entire semi-circle would be able to see them and this meant that action on stage was conducted through definitive full body movements and long held gestures. The audience also had varying viewpoints due to their seating and they were also able to see each others reactions.

Excellence exemplar 2016

Subject: Drama		Standard: 90998	Total score: 23
Q	Grade score	Annotation	
1	E8	<p>The purpose of the tragic hero in Greek tragedy is clearly described by the candidate as having “admirable qualities, but also a fatal flaw.” This is further qualified in terms of the purpose for the audience when they say, “that even great heroes have their faults, and are therefore below the Gods.” The candidate is already making links to the wider social/ historical context when they say “this forces the audience to reflect of themselves and compare them to the hero.” A range of drama techniques in (b) are identified and explained, for example they say, “...after the hero’s tragic fall, the actor (would) use voice to portray agony and pain....take on a more bent posture,,, may stumble...” The description of how techniques are used is very specific.</p> <p>The purpose of the tragic hero is further illustrated by an example and a direct quote. The candidate says: “Oedipus, the tragic hero exclaims after his downfall: ‘It was Apollo friends, he ordained my agony...’ showing clearly that Apollo was the one that (sought) to punish him...he knew her was referring to hamartia (fatal flaw)...” The candidate makes another insightful connection to the wider social/historical context when they state: “the plays of the time were a warning against self-determinism and lack of respect for the gods.”</p>	
2	E8	<p>The candidate clearly identifies and describes a moment when the technology of mask is used when they say: “After the hero’s anagnorisis (great discovery) and it shows the intense pain the character faces.” The mask itself is annotated in detail including features such as “large mouth hole- has impact on resonance; made from linen over wooden frame so it can be lightweight; “</p> <p>The candidate explains with insight how actors could portray female roles with the use of masks (as the social expectation was that women could not perform), as well as explaining the exaggerated facial expressions that were created to so that audience members sitting a great distance from the stage could see them. In this way, the candidate insightfully links the technology to the social expectations as well as the performance space of the period.</p>	
3	E7	<p>The candidate describes the placement of the audience in detail and then with some insight describes the interaction of chorus with the actors (on the proscenium) and audience. This evidence is shown when the candidate says “the chorus spoke in unison and would often directly question the main actors. The audience looked towards the chorus to see the way in which they as citizens were expected to react.”</p>	