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91215



Draw a cross through the box (X) if you have NOT written in this booklet

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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 2 Drama 2024

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

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 2–16 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

Do not write in any cross-hatched area (XXXXX). This area will be cut off when the booklet is marked.

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

Achievement

TOTAL 11

INSTRUCTIONS

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.

Drama/theatre forms include (but are not limited to):

- medieval theatre
- commedia dell'arte
- Elizabethan theatre
- epic theatre
- melodrama
- Greek theatre
- New Zealand theatre.

(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: <u>Elizabethan theatre</u>
Title of the text/play (or brief details of the action): <u>Macbeth</u>
Playwright/creator(s) (if applicable): <u>William Shakespeare</u>

Features of the drama/theatre form or period to which the questions refer may include:

- performance space (e.g. medieval use of pageant wagons)
- acting styles (e.g. the extravagant gestures of commedia dell'arte)
- themes or ideas (e.g. the Elizabethan wheel of fortune)
- conventions (e.g. use of asides in melodrama)
- use of technologies (e.g. mask in Greek theatre)
- historical/social context (e.g. the Great Depression in New Zealand theatre).

QUESTION ONE: Action and theme or idea

Action is a drama element. Action refers to the events happening in the text.

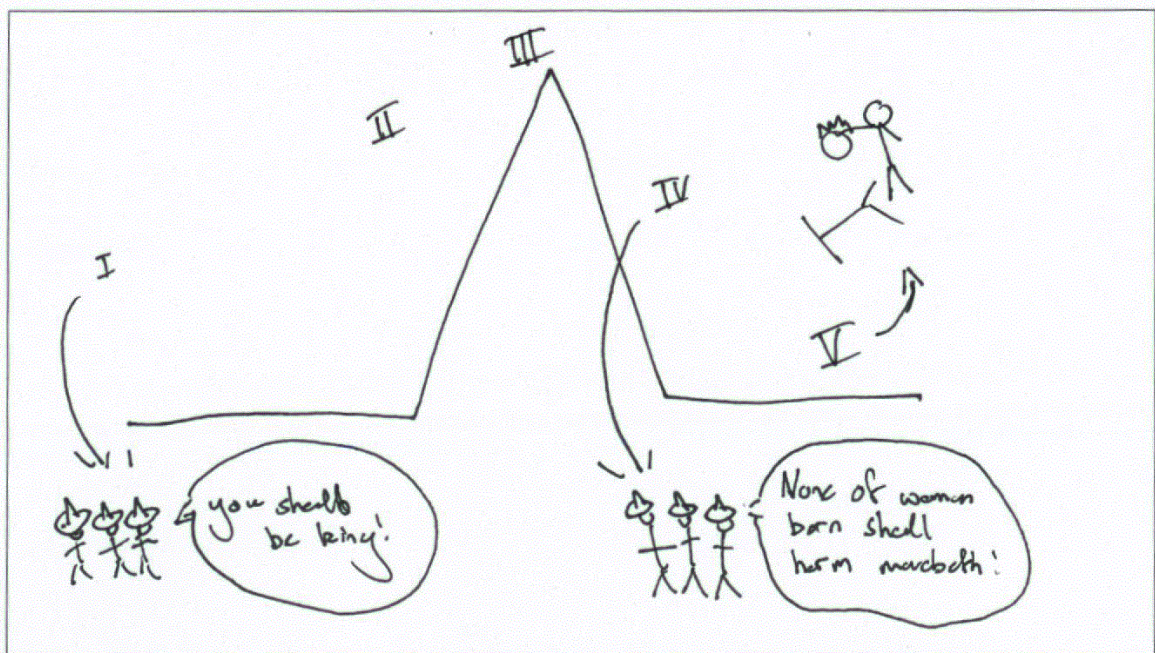
Identify a moment of action from the text:

Act V, Scene VIII. Macbeth Vs Macduff

- (a) Describe how this moment of action is typical of the drama/theatre form or period. Give specific details from the text to support your answer. You may sketch and make annotations in the space below.

Macbeth was written by William Shakespeare in 1606, a period where war and violence was a common feature. Macbeth is a tragedy and typical of the form is a high status character falling from grace due to a fatal flaw.

Macbeth was a man who broke the great chain of being, a religious hierarchy system followed at the time, due to his fatal flaw of unchecked ambition causing him to become a tyrant and die in battle against Macduff, after relying on a prophecy proposed by witches. This follows the typical structure of an Elizabethan tragedy while incorporating fundamental ideas (see back)



(b) Discuss how this action communicates a typical theme or idea.

You could consider:

- what one or more characters are feeling and/or thinking during the action
- the position of this action within the text (e.g. at the beginning or ending)
- the playwright's purpose.

Give specific details from the text to support your answer.

The tragedy of Macbeth is a representation of the theme of kingship vs tyranny which was used to influence the political climate of the time.

In 1606, the time of Macbeth's creation, the ruler of England was King James I. However he was also King James VI of Scotland. The first of his kind. People were anxious of what James' rule would become and Shakespeare uses Macbeth and its characters to distinguish the difference between kingship, with Duncan, and tyranny with Macbeth, for James.

Within Macbeth, Duncan was the representation of kingship fair and favoured. When contemplating murdering him, Macbeth himself says "This Duncan, he hath borne his faculties so meek, hath been so clear his great office, that his virtues will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued, against the deep damnation of his going out." This shows how liked Duncan was through his actions and how this should be how James acted as king. ~~Macbeth~~

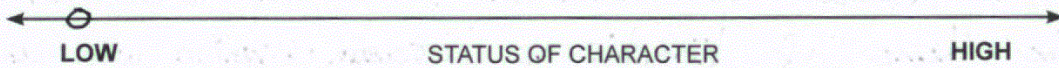
Macbeth was used to represent tyranny and as a warning to James about the consequences of being a tyrant. In Act V, Scene VIII, Macduff conveys the message of what happens (see back)

QUESTION TWO: Status

Status refers to the social position of a character.

Identify a typical character from the text, and label on the arrowed line below the point that represents their status:

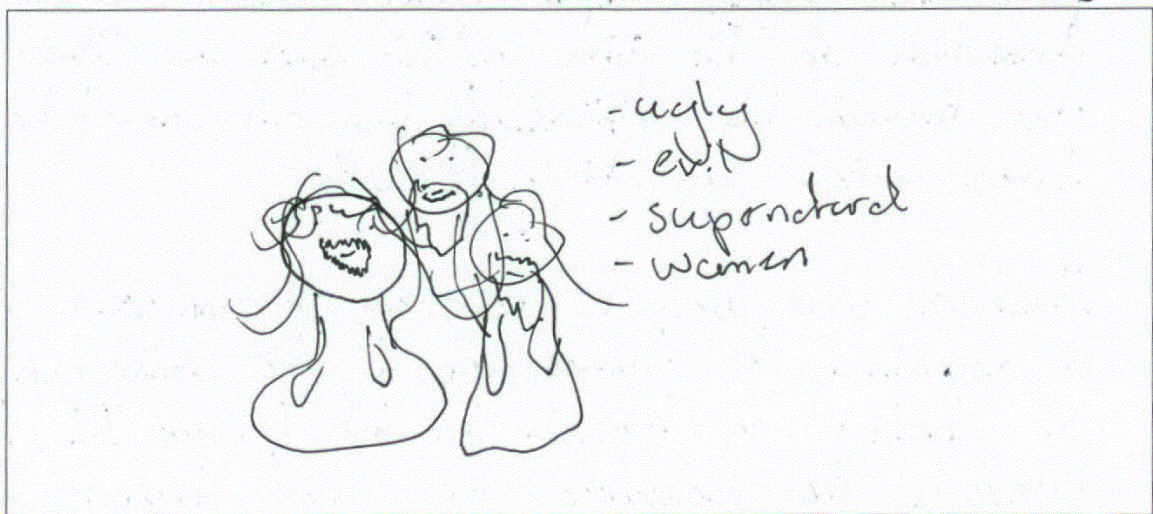
Character: The witches



- (a) Describe how the typical acting style would be used to show the status of the character. Give specific details from the text to support your answer. You may sketch and make annotations in the space below.

The witches in Macbeth were of the lowest in status. For one they were supposed to be women as Banquo states in Act I, Scene III, saying "you appear to be women, but your beards forbid me to interpret that you are so", and even worse, they were uncanny supernatural beings against god.

To emphasise their difference from the other characters they would exhibit almost chorus-like movements, acting as one being rather than three individuals, to accentuate their differences in movement. They would also use a different pattern of speech when talking (screeching).



- (b) Discuss how the status of the character reflects the social/historical context of your chosen drama/theatre form or period.

You could consider:

- the social structure of the time
- the gender roles in society at the time
- the values/religions/customs of the time.

Give specific details from the text to support your answer.

During the period of Macbeth, society was ruled under what is known as the great chain of being. Coined by Socrates in 300 B.C., the Great Chain of Being represented a religious hierarchy where all beings had their standing under God. If the great chain of being were to be disrupted, as seen in Macbeth, catastrophe would occur.

Along with this, society had an intense fear of the supernatural for succeeding modern day. This due in part to King James who, in 1590 when returning to England with his wife Anne of Denmark, had his vessel ravaged by the harsh seas and storms. This led to James theorising a supernatural assassination attempt which was later confirmed to him when the North Berwick witches confessed (after coercion via torture) to cursing him. This led James to further fear and study the occult until he published the book *Daemonology* in 1597 (~~the times bestseller~~) which caused a further push of the fear of the supernatural.

Because Macbeth was written for James, the witches were such low status characters (see book)

QUESTION THREE: Conventions

Conventions are the established ways of working within the drama/theatre form or period that explore meaning or deepen understanding.

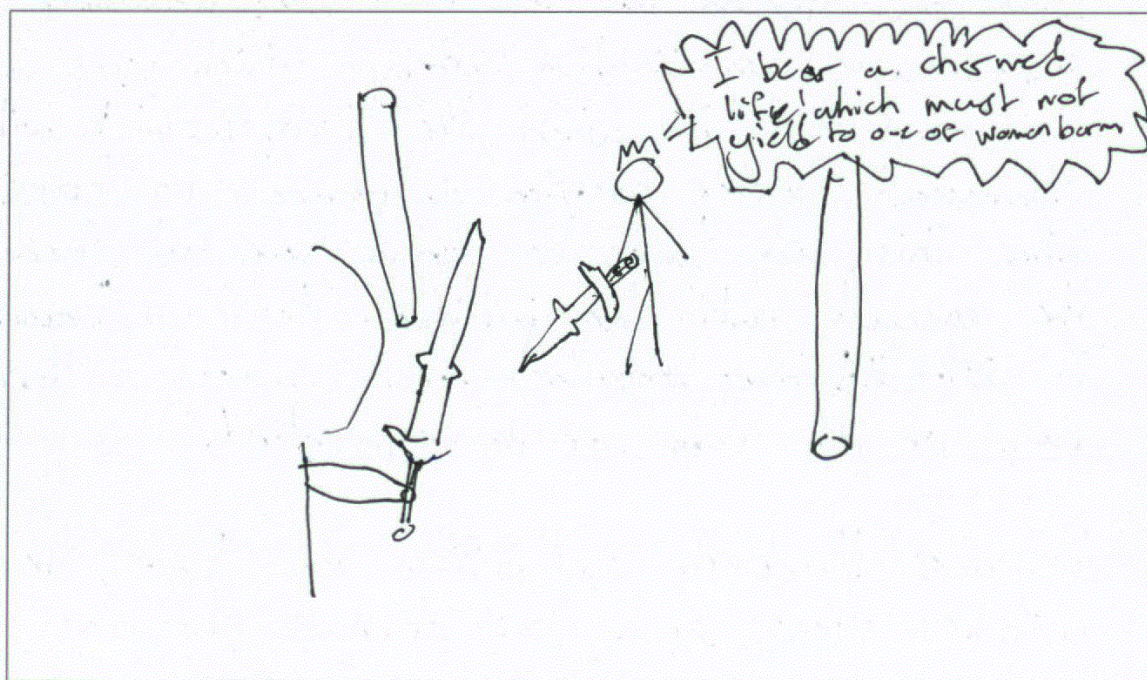
Identify a convention typical of your chosen drama/theatre form or period:

Exaggerated acting style.

- (a) Describe how the convention would be used in a typical performance of the chosen text. Give specific details from the text to support your answer. You may sketch and make annotations in the space below.

As an actor playing Macbeth, in Act II, Scene VII, I would use an exaggerated acting style to emphasise my voice during prose and my movement, body and spacing while fighting.

Every line is spoken booming and dripping with fanatic superiority "I bear a charmed life, which must not yield to one of woman born". My facial and body would be stoic and vast, ~~not~~ shocked to portray a warrior facing his impending doom at the line (see back).



(b) Discuss the purpose of this use of the convention.

You could consider:

- the creation of layers of meaning
- the impact on a traditional audience
- how the convention was used across the form or period.

Give specific details from the text to support your answer.

Being presented at the Globe Theatre in 1606, the technology at the time was not comparable to what it is now. Due to how the theatre was arranged, as an actor I would have to perform to the front and both sides both down and up. The exaggerated acting style is necessary because the audience needs to see what is happening in order to fully immerse them into the performance.

If my voice isn't loud enough, they can't hear. If my body and movements are too subtle, the audience won't notice. If I am unaware of my spacing during fight choreography then some people will be unable to see.

The exaggerated acting style creates a greater impact on the performance for the audience by allowing them to immerse themselves in the nuances of each scene.

Extra space if required.
Write the question number(s) if applicable.

QUESTION
NUMBER

1

- a of the time such as violence, supernatural beings and the great chain of being leading to Macbeth's beheading.
- b to tyrants when he tells Macbeth "We'll have your faces our rarer monsters are, painted upon a pole. And underneath here may you see the tyrant" before subsequently beheading him. Rather suggestive messaging.

Through these characters and the moment of action during Act V, Scene VIII, when James watched the play he would understand the messages of kingship and tyranny being sent to him.

Extra space if required.
Write the question number(s) if applicable.

QUESTION
NUMBER

2

a Human characters would deliver dialogue like soliloquies using a pattern known as Iambic Pentameter, unstressed stressed in groups of five, typical of the Poet. The Witches, in contrast, used trochaic tetrameter in quatrains like "Thrice the blinded cat hath mew'd, Thrice hath the hedge-pigeon whined, Thrice cries his time his time" and the famous "Double double toil and trouble, Fire burn and cauldron bubble". The effect of this is that it clearly contrasts their characters against everyone else and explains their extremely low status due to their supernatural status.

b due to his avid fear of the supernatural.

Extra space if required.
Write the question number(s) if applicable.

QUESTION
NUMBER

3

a "Macbeth was from his mother's womb, unbriely
ripped". During the fight, my movements would
have to be strong, forceful and erratic
to convey Macbeth's skill as a warrior along
with his desperation for his survival. After
being beheaded I can relax and be
dead.

Achievement

Subject: Drama

Standard: 91215

Total score: 11

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
One	05	The candidate identified a moment of action as typical of the theatre form and was able to explain how this communicated a typical theme. However, there was limited detail connecting the typical theme and the text, which limited this response to M5.
Two	03	The candidate identified a character and their status. However, there was limited detail in the description of the typical acting style, which limited this response to A3.
Three	03	The candidate identified a convention of the theatre form. However, there was limited detail in the description of how this would be used in a typical performance of the text, which limited this response to A3.