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3

91514



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 3 Drama 2024

### 91514 Interpret a text from a prescribed playwright to demonstrate knowledge of a theatre form or period

Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Interpret a text from a prescribed playwright to demonstrate knowledge of a theatre form or period.	Interpret a text from a prescribed playwright to demonstrate informed knowledge of a theatre form or period.	Interpret a text from a prescribed playwright to demonstrate perceptive knowledge of a theatre form or period.

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.**

Merit

TOTAL 16



## INSTRUCTIONS

Choose ONE text by one of the prescribed playwrights whose work you have studied this year. Use your chosen text to answer ALL of the questions in this booklet.

Read the questions carefully before you begin. Each has different requirements.

## PRESCRIBED PLAYWRIGHTS

Jean Anouilh	Federico García Lorca	Jacob Rajan & Justin Lewis
Aristophanes	Briar Grace-Smith	Renée
Samuel Beckett	Gary Henderson	Maurice Shadbolt
Albert Belz	Witi Ihimaera	William Shakespeare
Jean Betts	Oscar Kightley & Dave Armstrong	George Bernard Shaw
William Brandt	John Kneubuhl	Stephen Sinclair
Bertolt Brecht	Hone Kouka	Sophocles
Lynda Chanwai-Earle	Greg McGee	Tom Stoppard
Anton Chekhov	Stuart McKenzie	Mervyn Thompson
Caryl Churchill	Vela Manusaute	Makerita Urale
Euripides	Bruce Mason	Timberlake Wertenbaker
Michelanne Forster	Arthur Miller	Oscar Wilde
Toa Fraser	Vincent O'Sullivan	Tennessee Williams
Dianna Fuemana	Harold Pinter	

Write the details of your chosen text in the box below.

Text: Antigone

Playwright: Sophocles

Theatre form or period: Greek Tragedy



- fate - man ✓ god  
 - stichomythia  
 - agon  
 - challenge society

### QUESTION ONE: Playwright's purpose and social context

Consider the playwright's purpose in writing your chosen text. Purpose could include the intended impact on the audience, or what the playwright wanted the audience to think, feel, or do.

- (a) What was the playwright's key purpose in the text you studied? Support your explanation with specific and detailed examples from the text.

The playwright Sophocles of the Greek tragedy text Antigone's key purpose was to develop the idea of Man v <sup>vs</sup> god through the text which would challenge the audience's social beliefs. Sophocles' key purpose of this is strongly shown in ~~the~~ Antigone through Antigone's actions of burying her brother Polynices which is against the state's order as well as the beliefs of the gods shown in sister Ismene's quote "you cannot mean to bury him against the order." Sophocles also shows his purpose to communicate the idea of Man vs god and state through the conventions of Agon which is a debate between two characters. This is shown in Antigone as she pressures her sister to bury their brother (enemy of the state) which Ismene rejects as she is obedient and complies with the rules of the state and power of the gods leaving Antigone to challenge this strong power by herself. An aspect of this Agon and the idea of Man vs god and state is shown again in Ismene's quote "how could you dare when Creon has expressly forbidden it". Through this quote Sophocles reflects the fear of the consequences when one such as Ismene decides to challenge the ~~stage~~ state and gods communicating their want for any success and ~~leading~~ he their fear leads the audience to feel ~~complete~~ complicity towards the rule of the gods and state.



- characteristics  
- realistic characters<sup>5</sup> fake

- (b) How was the playwright's purpose influenced by the social and historical context of the time? Support your explanation with specific and detailed examples from the text.

You could consider, for example:

- key historical events
- beliefs and values of the time
- the playwright's world view.

In the text 'Antigone' Sophocles purpose of showing the idea of man v god and state is strongly influenced by the social and historical context at the time of Greek Tragedy from 430-440 BC. The historical connection to the battle of Athens and thebes from ancient greece (where Polynices died) is a strong influence. This event supports Sophocles Man v god and state theme proving if you ~~go~~ went against your state your fate will be death further shown in Antigones quote "Polynices just as unhappily ~~turned~~ fallen the order says he is not to be burned, not to be mourned." The social beliefs and values around fate also strongly influenced Sophocles purpose from Greek Tragedy. The lives of those in society of ancient greece were strongly impacted by how their actions would determine their fate and what was destined to happen to them. Sophocles Man v god and state purpose promotes this through the characteristics of Greek tragedy in this text. The term Hamartia (tragic flaw) and Peripetia (reversal of fortune) are strong aspects of this text which determine Antigones fate. Her tragic flaw of viewing her actions as above the gods reverse her fortune and determine her fate ~~as~~ as her loyalties are viewed as dishonorable to the gods, further presented in her line "and if I die for it what happiness I will be beside a brother who I love" presenting her determination to challenge the gods at ~~the~~ the hands of her fate. These characteristics present



- motionless  
- extended - flowing  
- large - loud

## QUESTION TWO: Acting style

Consider a key moment in your chosen text.

- (a) In this moment, how would an actor(s) use the typical acting style of the theatre form or period? Support your explanation with specific and detailed examples from the text.

A key moment in Sophocles Greek tragedy text 'Antigone' is when Antigone's sister Ismene tries to convince her to not bury her brother by specifically making her think of what happened to their mother Eurydice and father Oedipus in Sophocles' text Oedipus Rex. This moment in Antigone is a strong ~~mean~~ moment where the typical acting style of Greek tragedy was used. This involves extended and flowing ~~the~~ gestures which can be sustained or motionless for longer passages combined with a loud and clear vocal techniques. In this ~~movement~~ moment Ismene largely extended flowing gestures and strong stance when speaking would emphasise her desperation to convince Antigone to change her mind. Such bending her knees and reaching her palms out and upwards to beg to her or wide spacial use of her arms in other directions to reflect the desperation shown in her quote from this moment "do you forget how our father perished in shame and misery." This typical acting style of Greek tragedy would also be used in this moment through large extended arm gestures to show her fist or strength to show her Ismene's anger and frustration of her sister's actions. Combined with the sustained movements to really highlight her point to Antigone and Ismene. ~~Sophocles~~ Sophocles presents the importance of the acting style in this moment further through the quote "we are women ~~it~~ it is not for us to fight against men", which also further supports the previous idea.



Communicate easily  
value of theatre

7

Chorus - emphasize point with  
the same  
meanings

- (b) How is this use of the acting style typical of the theatre form or period of your chosen text? Support your explanation with specific and detailed examples from the text.

You could consider, for example:

- the use of drama techniques and/or conventions specific to the theatre form
- the intended effect of this acting style on the audience
- the function of the actor in this theatre form or period.

This acting style presented in Sophocles text is typical of the theatre form Greek tragedy due to how it's supported by conventions, the effect on the audience and the purpose of the actor within this style. The typical convention of the Chorus within the form of Greek tragedy supports how the stylized acting is typical of this form. The convincing extended flowing movements of the actor ~~and~~ and the ideas this acting style communicates are reinforced by the acting style of the Chorus. This convention involves 12 to 15 men with identical actions and speech and with the purpose of supporting and emphasising the action on stage. The acting style presented in this moment of Antigone shows it was typical of ~~the~~ Greek tragedy as the chorus ~~was~~ would reinforce the ideas and the acting style of the actors on stage. This can be shown in the quote from the chorus "No wisdom but in submission to gods" which enforces the purpose of this convention to this theatre form as ~~they~~ they reinforce Ismene's argument to Antigone that her ~~is~~ plan is a bad one. Through this acting style of typical Greek tragedy there is a strong impact created on the audience reflecting ~~value~~ the overall value of theatre within Antigone and Greek theatre overall. Through the ~~the~~ large and sustained gestures of the acting in Antigone ideas can easily be communicated and understood by the large audience of people who attended Greek tragedy and Sophocles performances, as the actors movement and body ~~and~~ and voice techniques could easily be seen across



### QUESTION THREE: Setting

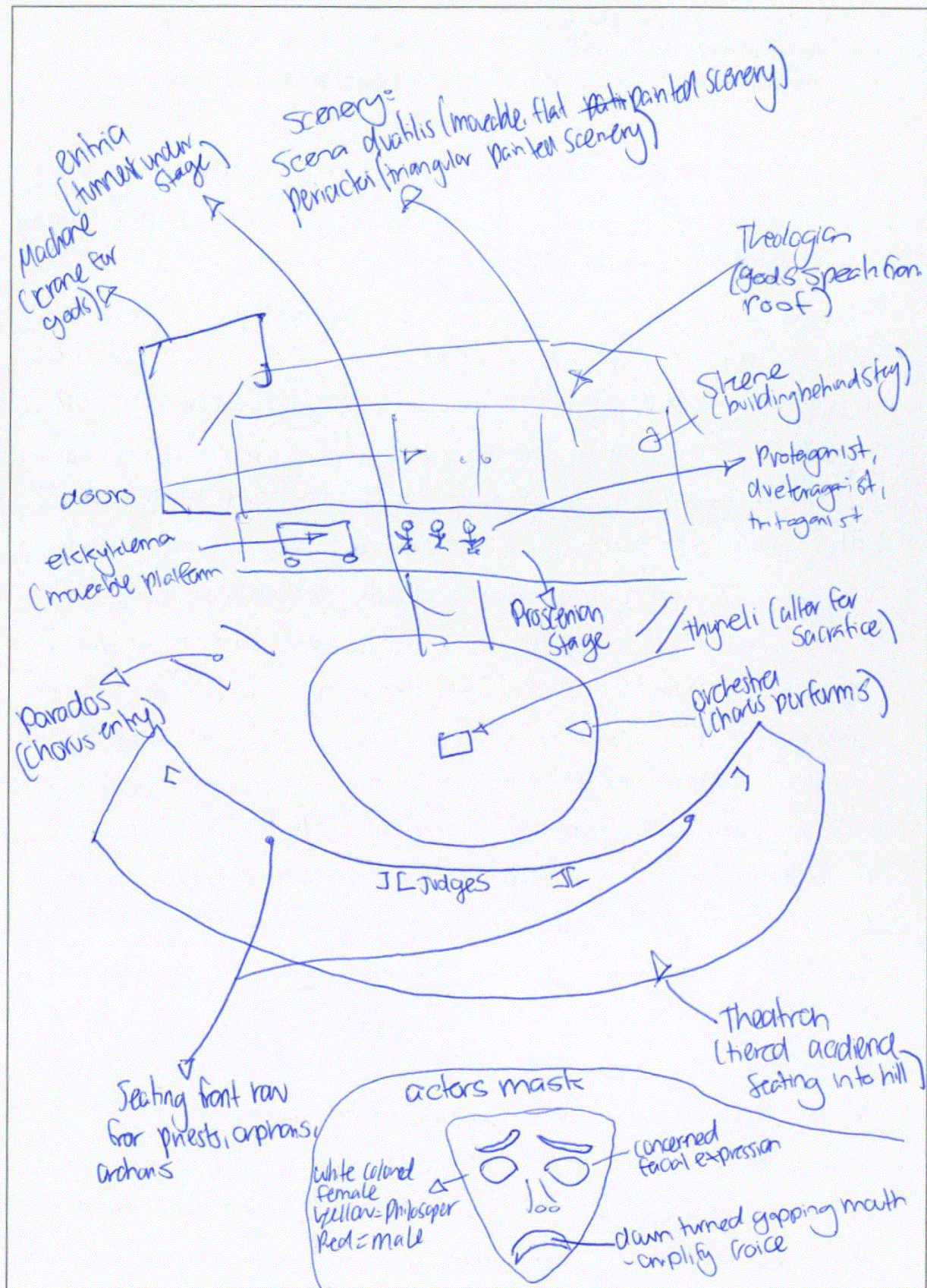
Consider a setting from your chosen text that is typical of the theatre form or period. Setting could include time and/or place.

- (a) How would technology have typically been used to show this setting? Support your explanation with specific and detailed examples from the text.

A typical setting of the theatre form Greek tragedy was the Amphitheatre where the plays would be performed outside with large tiered seating built into a hill for acoustics. Key technology that would have been used to show this setting are the *Mask* (prosopa) and the *Machone* (~~the~~ wooden crane) as shown within the setting of the ~~theatre~~ theatre. The technology of prosopa showed this setting as it reflected the tragic plays such as Antigone that would be produced in the theatre. This is reflected by the downturned mouth shape of the prosopa which was typical of Greek tragedy, along with the gapping mouth which would amplify the actors voice reflecting the setting as a large open space where the voice would have to reach the elevated audience ~~in~~ in the theatron in order to communicate important lines such as ~~from~~ from Ismene "help you do what Antigone, what do you mean!" Secondly the use of the Machone technology was an integral aspect of Greek tragedy and typically used in this theatre setting. The Machone was on the actors stage right and would be used to fly the god into the theatre after having had the gods speak from the roof of the Skene known as the thedogian. This technology would have typically been used in this setting to show the value of the gods within the plays performed here. Such as in Sophocles text Antigone where the presence of the gods enforces Antigones fate following her actions.



Sketch in the space below if you want to illustrate any part of your answer to Question Three. Annotate the sketch(es) to explain the point(s) you are making.





Tragedia

10

- honoring the gods - symbolic  
- sacrifice - dithyrambs  
- prestige - power from gods

- (b) What does this setting communicate to the audience? Support your explanation with specific and detailed examples from the text.

You could consider, for example:

- the importance of time and/or place
- the creation of symbolic meaning
- connections or contrasts between the world of the play and society of the time.

The setting along with the use of the mentioned technologies within the setting communicate strong ideas to the audience about honoring the gods which Sophocles reflects through the text *Antigone*. The purpose of theatre and the playwrights of this time reflects the importance of religion and the gods at the time of ancient Greece. The origin of tragedy comes from the word *tragoidia* meaning goat song connecting to sacrifice enforcing how Greek tragedy must honor the gods. Reflected through the setting and the *thyrsos* in the orchestra used for sacrifice along with the choral odes to *Dionysos* (*Dithyramb*) which would feature in the plays. This can be enforced by a quote from the chorus "thought and speech as quick as the wind" this line from *Antigone* reflects that you are able to act quickly on your intentions such as Antigone does in ~~this~~ this text however the chorus stresses how this must be influenced by the gods. The idea of *Deus ex Machina* communicated by the Machine in this setting presents the idea of the gods flying in to be involved in the world of the play which can be enforced by Ismene's quote "you know how heavy the hand of god is upon us, how he who are left must suffer for our father Oedipus". By having the gods involved in the text through the setting this communicates to the audience their symbolic meaning and challenges the audience to consider the idea that the gods are always



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

QUESTION  
NUMBER

Question 1 B continued

a realistic character to the audience who experiences flaw such as them promoting Sophocles World View as he wants to prove to the audience the similarities characters such as Antigone have to them. This also supports his purpose as the strong social context of the value of fate challenge the audience to have a more deep considerations for their actions and beliefs and how this determines their fate.

Question 2 B Continued

the whole theatre. This reflected the value of theatre within this theatre form and ~~the~~ the intention of Sophocles to ensure the messages within the text were understood by all and would ensure the audience to achieve katharsis. This was important as it reflected Aristotles definition of tragedy "through pity and fear effecting the proper purgation of emotions". This is achieved through the acting style in Antigone as she kills herself over what she is done and Ismene feels the loss of her sister shown in the quote "remember those that love you, love you still". Overall these points enforce how Sophocles intended acting style in Antigone is typical of Greek tragedy by enforcing the value and importance of the actor in communicating important and challenging ideas to the audience and creating katharsis.



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

QUESTION  
NUMBER

Question 3 is Continued

With them. This symbol of the gods is also communicated by the use of *proscopimastai* within the setting. These symbolize the gods as they blink at the actor allowing them to be fulfilled by the gods, communicating to the audience that the honor of the gods should influence the way you live; such as Ismene wanting to be complicit to the power of the gods and create order. These ideas communicated through the value of gods and religion emphasize Sophocles' purpose to not only entertain and educate the audience around valuing the gods but it also filled his intention to win dramatic festivals such as ~~Parade~~ City Dionysia as this would gain him prestige and power from ~~the~~ the gods. Overall this setting communicates to the audience contrasts between the world of ~~the~~ the play and society. Such as although the gods are not physical in society the involvement of them in the setting and this text encouraged ~~us to live by~~ society at the time to live their life in honor of the gods and power and to contrast how they lived their life from how Antigone ~~chose~~ chose to live hers.



## Merit

**Subject:** Drama

**Standard:** 91514

**Total score:** 16

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
One	M5	<p>In part (a) the candidate explained the purpose of the playwright (challenging the audience's social beliefs) in some detail, using specific detail from the text ("... you cannot mean to bury him against the order.")</p> <p>In part (b), the historical and social context was explained in some detail, using quotes and specific information about the historical context.</p>
Two	M5	<p>The candidate identified and explained a key moment, and the typical acting style of a performer was explained in some detail. Some relevant details (extended flowing movements and strong stance) were included, and supporting evidence was used.</p> <p>In part (b) the candidate made a reference to another typical feature of the acting style by discussing the chorus and including specific quotes and action from the text.</p>
Three	M6	<p>The candidate explained the technology of the setting (time and place) in detail, using specific information about the amphitheatre and the use of masks. Detailed evidence from the text was used to support the explanation. A sketch was provided, which included some specific information about the technology. The candidate then discussed the way that the technology is used to communicate specific ideas to the audience.</p>