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91518



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

91518 Demonstrate understanding of live drama performance

Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Demonstrate understanding of live drama performance.	Demonstrate informed understanding of live drama performance.	Demonstrate perceptive understanding of live drama performance.

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 (XXXXXX). 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.

Excellence

TOTAL 24

INSTRUCTIONS

Select ONE live drama performance that you have seen this year to answer ALL of the questions in this booklet. (The drama performance may be a live performance that has been recorded.)

Do not repeat information in your answers to different questions.

Write the details of the live drama performance in the box below.

Title: Scenes from the Climate Era

Playwright: David Finnigan

Theatre company/ensemble: Auckland theatre company and Silo theatre

Same root, different issue

lines intertwine - all at once "It's so dark, it's so bright I can't see... 4 I can see everything!"

narration - Climate Summits
split stage - penultimate

when split stage is removed

QUESTION ONE: A drama convention

"like baseballs"
"like a furnace"

focus - lack of focus

all scenes play out at once - it is too late

Consider a convention that was used at a key moment in the performance.

- (a) How was the convention used in this moment? Give specific details from the performance to support your answer.

In the penultimate scene, split stage separates 4 different actors, each of who are set in a different time and location affected by a different climate catastrophe (wildfires, heat wave, microplastics, storm). At the end of the moment, split stage is removed dramatically and all the actors suddenly act out all at once. Their lines and once visually separated stories now intertwine with juxtaposing each other simultaneously "It's so dark" ... "It's so bright I can't see" ... "I can see everything!" This removal of split stage intensely shows how all the actors are facing different issues, but they all are formed from the same root. By manipulating our focus with split stage and then removing it, we are directly confronted with the root of climate change, realising that time has run out to act as there is no longer a cemented focus like the split stage created. With all the actors fighting to be heard over one another now, the moment illustrates the importance of this focus on climate issues, and how without it minorities and different climate voices have to battle to be heard by society, whether this be in a news broadcast like the split stage illustrated or more generally for an ounce of acknowledgment of struggle. The lines they scream over one another such as "like baseballs" are so 'normally humane' that it highlights with a lack of focus, our normal will be redefined and manipulated into catastrophe, and catastrophe itself will be normalised.

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

Split Stage acts as a communication structure in this scene, highlighting the importance of seeing multiple ideas and then the importance of seeing all these ideas in conjunction and the impact of this.

By having the characters split in different positions with different objects that were leftover from earlier scenes the wasteful and disregarding nature of humanity is directly exposed with each of the characters separate positions and set pieces being ones that are familiar and recognisable to the audience such as a ladder. This further cements how this is a human issue and humans are vital in focussing and creating solutions.

The other actors remaining frozen whilst the split stage highlights another character reflects the inaction humanity has towards climate change and how we would prefer to remain comfortable and still rather than confront something pressuring and challenging that may cause us to struggle like climate activism / solutions. We are afraid of being judged for speaking our opinions in society where they may be deemed "wrong".

Each of the four actors were placed at the furthest four points of the stage. The convention of Split Stage allowed the actor to tell their story directly to the audience whilst the other 3 actors remained frozen in place. The split stage's focus would jump randomly to each actor shifting the audience's focus quickly and dramatically. The audience's mindset switching from one issue to another highlights the lack of focus we have on climate issues. The moment is reflective of a news channel where a new climate headline is broadcast everyday, drawing immediate focus away from the one that came before it.

paid to
be "not convinced"
- dictate media
blurs the line

political theatre

↳ think logically

final moment-impact

6

government - USA Paris agreement

line is running out
- climate clock

(b) Discuss what the use of this convention communicated to the audience.

You could consider, for example:

- the shaping or defining of elements, such as time, tension, and focus
- how it deepened the audience's understanding of a key idea
- the director's concept for the production.

NZ emissions
highly insufficient
2035, 2050

finance over climate
green technologies more affordable

The manipulation of splitstage to create and remove focus puts the audience into powerful shoes of the government. The lack of focus and acknowledgment to climate issues similarly shows the ignorance and disregarding nature of capitalism. Government runs on money, therefore prioritising business and the economy, with this mindset, focusing on fostering climate solutions for those in need is ill-fitted and likely to cause an economic downturn. Because of this, just like the audience is manipulated to do, the government manipulates general focus on climate, politicians are paid to dictate the media and climate news, blurring the lines between issues and forcing the general populous to focus on economy and labour. This ignorance is reflected in the lack of action from New Zealand's very own climate ministry which is not on track for its 2035 carbon goals or Carbon free by 2050 being marked as highly insufficient in climate action, with both our government and powerful countries such as the US who are withdrawing from the Paris agreement and refusing to fund other underdeveloped nations in climate action, the play's penultimate moment makes us realise how their lack of focus means we as individuals need to be responsible for our own, with this scene being the impactful final scene, audiences walk out of the theatre with the message of "as an individual I must take action", by seeing other humans like themselves struggle, we develop a fear of eventually being in the same... (more on extra space)

Status is one of disregard
 - those left poor
 - over consumption
 hungry
 hiss
 - oppressed
 - overlooked
 dehumanised
 worthless
 oppressed
 angry
 skewed face
 has one job
 mouse = human

QUESTION TWO: Drama techniques and status

Consider the status (or social position) of a key character in relation to others in the performance.

- (a) How did an actor use techniques to show the character's status at a specific moment? Give specific details from the performance to support your answer.

The actor portraying a genetically mutated mouse used robotic and stylised movements to create something 'inhuman' and 'dehumanised'. The actor rubbed her hands together in a fast and repetitive gesture as if begging for food or being hungry. The mouse's status as overlooked reflects how the two human characters on stage disregard its needs. Humans have become so controlling over the animal kingdom that the mouse's natural instincts to hunt have been removed. The mouse itself however is a direct mirror into human kind. The image of being hungry reflects human's over consumption of natural resources and our environment, we are hungry and greedy creatures, just like this mouse that disrupt natural order. The actor remains completely still on a raised level overlooking the humans, this highlights that although a mouse is something humans overlook as smaller than ourselves it is a still part of the animal kingdom just like ourselves and we should not have the power to dictate the earth's equilibrium with our destructive nature. This is emphasised when the humans say "this is genocide to stop genocide" and the actor sharply turns her head to make direct eye contact with man before making a high pitched hiss noise at him. The choice of the word genocide and the actor drawing a strong connection to the human reflects how humans are an invasive species just like a rat. We use genocide as a tool for oppression that normalises human destruction, just like the rat which is bred for destruction, our instinct is to be destructive to our environment + ourselves. The actor remains still from the legs down for the whole performance juxtaposing...

(continued on extra space)

over consumption - fast fashion

- unethical

destruction looks down on / judges others

9

characters relationship with others
= our relationship with environment

(b) Discuss how status affected the character's relationships.

You could consider, for example:

- the influence of gender, age, culture, or economic situation
- how the differing status of characters can create challenges and opportunities
- how the character's status contributes to the social order and structure.

ignored as it's destructive

↳ we ignore

↳ human destruction

environmental degradation
inequality

The mouse's status shows it looking down on and judging the

humans. With the mouse acting as a symbol for human destruction,

by looking down on others a reflection of oppression and ignorance

is related, showing that the character's unethical relationship is just

as that of humans with social inequalities, and environmental

degradation. This human destruction and immoral overconsumption

can be reflected in the fast fashion industry where unethical labour

and unsustainable resources are used for human gain. Companies

supported by millions such as Shein prioritise profitability over

sustainability and oppress working minorities to supply this to others.

The character's relationship with others reflects how humans have

a destructive nature with ourselves. The mouse remaining distant from

the humans both physically and emotionally reflects our human ignorance

to destruction such as issues like pollution and deforestation relating

to the line said in the scene "If we do nothing, it is still our fault".

The character's high status of destruction but also inaction

reflects how humans' destructive nature will ultimately cause

'human destruction' of ourselves. The character's status allowing

the humans to act as minorities reflects society's social structure

and the vitality for indigenous and Maori voices to be heard to

create action and reverse destruction. With these voices seen / heard

without judgement we be able to confront the broader issues of

climate change together. With a divergent range of voices at

the table with have the ability to look into ancestry and

traditional medicines inspiring new ideas to break judging status differences

and confront human destruction changing inaction to action.

Small
Sfx - from the show / real life
costume - same as us - hope
- fear
10

Antarctica Scene
Fear / belittlement
and hope

QUESTION THREE: Drama technologies and mood

Consider TWO different moods that were created in the performance.

- (a) Explain how technology was used to create these two moods. Give specific details from the performance to support your answer.

Technologies are used to create two moods of fear and hope amongst the audience through the isolating setting of Antarctica with a female engineer who is designing a wall to stop the ice melting and the world's oceans rising by "1 1/2 meters". The technology of sound creates a fearful mood with noises of glaciers cracking, ice melting, water dripping, and low grumbling sounds. These noises are recorded from the natural world and real climate disasters, expertly selected as when the human mind thinks of climate change we think ice melting or waters rising. Therefore all audience members can intellectually link this sound effects to the idea of climate catastrophe and are fearful of the effects of this. The technology of costume is used to create a contrasting hopeful mood. The actor although portraying an Antarctic scientist wears jeans and a tank top, taking the same form as the use of torches for props / practical lighting. They are easily recognisable by the audience as they could be seen on the street or even worn by audience members in the theatre. This minimalist use of technology creates a humane feeling of sympathy and connection that the character is just like us as audience members. This therefore creates a hopeful mood by showing the audience they too can make such an impact as the climate scientist and they are capable of making positive climate solutions.

Shadow on gobo - our effects remain - hope & fear

blue light / set manipulation - fear 11

(bigger than us, unpredictable nature)

Set - fear
Gobos - fear
lighting - fear

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.

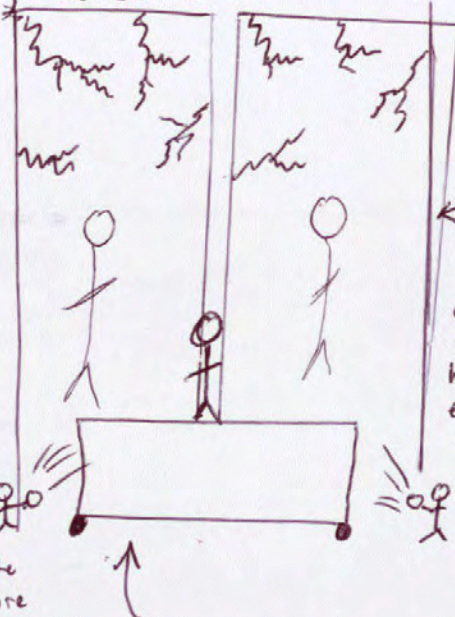
practical lighting - hope & fear

The blue lighting in this moment creates a cool and fearful mood reflecting the setting of Antarctica drawing visual cues to ice and being underwater. This lighting is dark reflecting the isolating nature of Antarctica and the fear the engineer has whilst being alone in this unusual and alienating place. The actor and scene is placed at the furthest point from the audience on stage highlighting the distance from humanity and lonely nature of her.

Unfamiliar environment further cementing a fearful mood into the audience.

The two large vinyls frame the actor over-shadowing her and appearing as if they are icebergs reflecting the scene's location in Antarctica. These set pieces make the actor appear small as if she is powerless to the effects of climate change and the natural world, therefore creating an immensely fearful mood.

Gobos are used with lighting to create cracks in the vinyls like cracks in an iceberg reflecting how we are slowly destroying the natural world. Confronting audiences with a fearful mood as the cracks ~~reflect~~ share human damages that can't be undone.



The set is manipulated by two actors who are plunged in darkness; these actors create practical lighting to spotlight the central character in the scene. This creates a hopeful mood that humans will support

others in their steps towards solutions. It however also creates a fearful mood that others will remain in the darkness and only judge you from afar.

The actor is manipulated by the set being moved with the rolling box she stands on. This reflects the unpredictable and looming nature of the environment and climate change is an extremely large force that is beyond human control, therefore we have to move with it like the actor. This creates a fearful mood in the audience that it is impossible to battle the large force of climate change.

The projection and casting of the actor's shadow on to the vinyls behind her which are reflective of icebergs reflects how our actions as humans are cemented into the environment. With the actor attempting to restore the icebergs this gives a hopeful mood that her efforts do truly create an impact and leave a positive mark on the environment. This in turn could also create a fearful mood that all wasteful actions we have are also engraved into the natural world causing a damaging impact.

hope vs fear
greta thunberg

#Team trees
12

gen Z vs older generations
hopeful activism (younger minds)

(b) Discuss the effectiveness of the use of technology in creating these differences in mood.

You could consider, for example:

- the intended emotional impact on the audience
- the purpose of creating differences in mood
- how this use of technology fits with the overall design concept.

colonisation - no matter how
oppressed we
must do something

The vast use of technologies is extremely impactful in reflecting moods of fear and hope. These contrasting moods plays with the audience emotions reflecting the difference in approaching climate change in a fearful manner vs a hopeful manner. The fear in the scene is a common tactic used by climate activists such as greta thunberg to excite communities to take climate action, the slow raises and fearful mood from lighting reflects this preachy and overgrim way of addressing the issue often making us more scared rather than incited to take action. The juxtaposition of the hopeful mood reflects the power of activism preached through hope, such as the rise of social media influencers create projects targeted at younger generations like #Teamtrees Sparking a restoration movement in gen Z.

The older mindsets of fear are outweighed by the younger mindsets of hope, as hope just as felt by the audience after this scene is a catalyst for action no matter how small you feel like the scientist entirely overshadowed, hope is vital to create climate solutions and spread awareness through positive messages rather than fighting facts that make us more anxious about climate change and provoke us to be ignorant to it.

The oppression of the character in this scene ~~shows that~~ by both her environment/sex and narration shows no matter who we are we still have the ability to make a positive impact. This sparks the question in the audience, "Is hope enough?" hope is entirely meaningless without action and solutions, when the shadows are cast on the vinyls this idea is effectively seen...

(on extra space
page)

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

QUESTION
NUMBER

Q1b Situations and crisis's. By seeing other humans suffer, our sympathy provokes us to do the opposite of what we did lacking focus and being a passive spectator like the government's. Instead I walked out the theatre relating to the core of the directors purpose and hunting for solutions, instead of normalising crisis. By using political theatre for this moment inspired by Bertolt Brecht, the director makes the audience active participants in the moral drama and allows them to critically come to their own conclusions with this personal moral dilemma.

Q2a her fast moving locomotive hands, this is extremely robotic, reflecting how humans perception of nature is unnatural and 'robotic' with no true connection. By not moving anywhere the mouse shows how we also have a tendency to not act. The mouse has one job: destroy reflecting how humans do the same and then 'don't move' to find a solution we remain ignorant. Interestingly by having the mouse at a higher level than the humans makes us think it has a higher status. However with the mouse being a reflection of human nature it shows the high status of human destruction and how this mindset is of higher status than those overlooked and oppressed just like a normal mouse.

Q3b as her solutions and actions make an impact. The purpose of creating these two different moods highlights that hope must outweigh our fear and our hope must act ~~as~~ as a catalyst to look for and foster climate solutions, with this we will make a true positive impact on climate but also the wider world. Therefore it is up to us to look to influential beings and companies like Apple who is carbon neutral for inspiration and hopeful messages of climate activism and action.

Excellence

Subject: Drama

Standard: 91518

Total score: 24

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
One	E8	The candidate has perceptively discussed the use of split stage in the penultimate scene in Scenes from a Climate Era. The nature of the performance has allowed the candidate to perceptively reflect on the impact and effect of the convention. They have extensively annotated a simple sketch outlining what the split stage looked like. The candidate has then perceptively discussed the impact climate change is having and the responsibility it puts on our current government.
Two	E8	The candidate has perceptively discussed the techniques used to create the portrayal of a genetically engineered mouse. They have quoted from the performance and given extensive detail throughout the answer on the status of the mouse.
Three	E8	The candidate has perceptively discussed how sound and costume created contrasting moods with the performance. They have extensively annotated a simple sketch outlining how the technologies were used and what they looked like. The candidate perceptively unpacked the two moods of fear and hope.