

National Certificate of Educational Achievement

2013 Assessment Report

Drama Level 2

- 91215 Discuss a drama or theatre form or period with reference to a text**
- 91219 Discuss drama elements, techniques, conventions and technologies within live performance**

COMMENTARY

A total of 1838 candidates sat the examination for AS91215 and 3084 candidates sat the examination for AS91219. Overall performance was very similar between the two standards. This is an indication that candidates are equally well prepared for each paper and that the new standards are well embedded.

71.6% of candidates achieved AS91215, and 76% achieved 91219. Performance at N, A, M and E was very similar for each of the standards. There has been a slight shift along the profile of expected performance (PEP) at N, which indicates slightly better performance against the standards overall.

The weakness in the cohort was in performance at excellence; for both standards the number of candidates achieving with excellence was at the bottom of the PEP.

It is recommended candidates prepare for this examination by familiarising themselves with the likely language of the questions. The assessment specifications and the explanatory notes in the standard are useful guides to the terms that can be expected in questions.

At this level, understanding of the terms 'techniques', 'conventions', 'technologies' and 'elements' is expected and candidates should be able to select and name components of these as required without further explanation in the question.

To achieve with excellence for each of these standards candidates are required to be able to make connections between the specific and the universal. Candidates are required to make connections to the wider world of the form or period for AS91215, and to themes and performance as a whole for AS91219.

STANDARD REPORTS

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

ACHIEVEMENT

Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:

- answered all questions
- identified a form or period and a text
- gave specific reference to the form or period in their responses
- gave information that was clear and accurate
- understood key words in the question such as 'performance convention'.

NOT ACHIEVED

Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:

- provided generalised or inaccurate responses
- gave generalised examples and/or omitted discussion of a specific moment when required by the question

- wrote about their own performance of the text rather than an original performance of text
- missed or partially answered questions
- identified a textual convention and did not refer or identify how it could be used appropriately in performance
- gave few or no examples from their chosen text to illustrate answers.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:

- demonstrated accurate and detailed knowledge of the chosen text and its features
- gave clear or detailed explanations in answers using specific examples from the chosen text to illustrate their points
- applied their understanding of drama elements (time and place) directly to their chosen text
- applied audience perspective and understanding when writing about the form or period
- understood audience and actor relationships within the acting space
- could connect features of their text to key features of the form or period
- identified a convention and referred to either its purpose and /or how it might be used in performance
- identified and discussed in detail an historical or geographical influence on the form or period
- wrote about action, characters or a situation from the chosen text that was relevant to the historical or geographical influence identified.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:

- demonstrated perceptive knowledge of their chosen text and its features
- discussed constraints or advantages of the acting space for the actors including detail typical of form or period
- knowledgeably discussed the playwright's purpose
- made insightful references to audience
- demonstrated perceptive knowledge of the impact of live performance on the lives of audience members at the time
- identified the wider context of the form or period and discussed the purpose of a convention in terms of audience reaction and playwright's intention.

91219 Discuss drama elements, techniques, conventions and technologies within live performance

ACHIEVEMENT

Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:

- answered all questions
- used subject specific vocabulary accurately
- identified required aspects, such as a prop, an important character's decision, clearly
- understood elements of drama such as 'mood'.

NOT ACHIEVED

Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:

- misunderstood drama specific terms in the question, such as 'property' or 'prop'
- answered part but not all of a question, for example describing the emotions but not the techniques used to communicate the emotion, or the techniques but not the emotion that was communicated
- confused techniques with elements or conventions.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:

- sketched and made annotations to support their answers
- gave clear descriptions of technologies
- supported answers with clear, specific details from the performance
- explained the effect of the use of techniques or technologies with clear reference to character, time or place
- explained techniques using adjectives and verbs
- recognised and responded to the 'before' and 'after' aspect of question 2b.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:

- answered all parts of all questions
- made connections between technologies and techniques used and key themes or ideas in the performance
- supported ideas with detailed and insightful examples
- made clear accurate reference to the performance as a whole and its context.