

Subject: Drama

Level: 3

Standards: 91514, 91518

Part A: Commentary

Drama standards 91514 and 91518 require confident use of terminology, combined with applicable knowledge of the theatre form or period or live production and a selection of easily accessible examples as evidence.

A thorough understanding of the text or production ensures that candidates' responses are supported with detailed evidence and can be clearly linked to a wider context, such as relevance to today's society and global concepts for theatre form or period. For the live production standard, the wider context refers to relevance to the performance, the playwright's purpose, the nature and/or purpose of theatre as an art form, and the candidate's own social, geographical, or historical context.

Candidates need to read the entire paper before beginning their responses. Candidates who unpacked the requirements of the questions provided stronger answers. Planning the use of examples avoided repetition. Candidates who cited relevant examples to support their answers achieved higher grades than those who cited indirect or loosely associated examples.

Bullet points were prompts for possible responses and assisted with scaffolding of a concise comprehensive answer, but they were not, by themselves, the entire question. Careful reading of the entire question ensured the response fully addressed the question, rather than focusing on answering individual bullet points in isolation.

Part B: Report on standards

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

Examination

The examination included three questions, each with two parts; candidates were required to respond to all three questions.

The questions covered the requirements of the 2022 Assessment Specifications, where candidates needed to be familiar with features of the form, which could include performance space, acting style, themes and ideas, use of conventions and technologies, and the historical and social context of the theatre form or period.

The questions required the candidate to provide coherent and relevant examples from the text to make connections to the theatre form or period.

Observations

Reading the question carefully supported the identification of a significant key moment or a challenge that provided enough depth for a comprehensive response.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- answered all questions in a simple manner, with some reference to the text they had identified
- described an idea or character correctly and explained the use of technology, with some reference to the chosen text.

Candidates who were awarded **Not Achieved** commonly:

- wrote in general terms about the text
- provided little or no evidence that was relevant to the questions
- relied heavily on plot summary and simply retold the text.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Merit** commonly:

- answered all questions
- used the sketch page very well to add the detail required to gain Merit, and which complemented the written answer
- supported answers with detailed reference to the chosen text
- identified an idea, character and challenge and technology, and were able to discuss their use in a persuasive and detailed manner
- demonstrated some ability to make links to the wider context of the theatre form and text.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Excellence** commonly:

- answered all questions and wrote detailed responses
- used the sketch page to further illustrate written answers
- demonstrated perception in their understanding of the chosen text and ability to discuss how technology, conventions, and character relationships were used and portrayed to show insight
- supported discussion with reference to the chosen text and included only relevant material
- used well-chosen detail to support opinions
- wrote well-structured responses and did not include opinions unrelated to the text.

91518: Demonstrate Understanding of live theatre performance

Examination

The examination included three questions, each with two parts; candidates were required to respond to all three questions. The questions covered the requirements of the 2022 Assessment Specifications, which were that candidates need to be familiar with the use of elements such as role, focus, and contrast, the actors' use of techniques, and the use of technologies and conventions. The questions required the candidate to make connections between the director's/designer's concept(s) and the performance seen.

Observations

Reading the question carefully supported responses that were relevant and provided appropriate detail and discussion.

When needing to discuss drama components, candidates demonstrated the clearest understanding of the use of technologies.

Candidates needed to be able to both comprehensively explain what they saw on stage and discuss their ideas by providing strong, detailed examples from the performance.

Relating themes and ideas to their own world/wider world was well executed.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- answered at least two of the three questions with confidence
- showed some understanding of drama components
- used drama terminology in a simple manner to support their answers
- provided basic sketches with labelling
- provided a simple description of what they saw, rather than a detailed explanation
- showed some understanding of the impact on the audience/aspects of drama.

Candidates who were awarded **Not Achieved** commonly:

- did not answer all of the questions
- demonstrated little understanding of drama terminology and drama components
- missed the purpose of questions
- described rather than explained
- wrote limited answers with little detail or reference to the question, or the play seen.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Merit** commonly:

- used drama terminology to support their answers
- constructed a clear picture of what they saw on stage by providing details from the performance to support their answers
- explained in detail what they saw in both parts of each question
- sketched with labelling and some annotations.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Excellence** commonly:

- used extensive drama terminology in supporting their discussion
- showed full understanding of the aspects of drama
- made clear connections to director and concept and / or wider world
- comprehensively explained what was happening on stage by providing extensive detail of what they saw
- directly supported their ideas by providing strong, detailed examples / evidence from the performance
- understood the impact of the performance on the audience.