



GCSE EXAMINERS' REPORTS

**DRAMA
GCSE**

AUTUMN 2020

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INTERPRETING THEATRE

General Comments

The questions in this year's paper were balanced with a focus on acting and design areas. As in previous years candidates' understanding of acting seemed more secure than their understanding of how design worked within their set text. There was also an issue with some candidates failing to read the question/rubric correctly which cost them valuable marks. This was particularly prevalent in Section B 7.1 where a minority of candidates didn't focus on **one** actor but a number of actors, thus failing to apply the question criteria and costing the candidates valuable marks.

The standard of responses across both sections were variable. Some candidates showed an excellent understanding of their chosen set text, with perceptive and detailed responses. The very best responses showed detailed and focused examples from their chosen text, were well organised and presented in a highly appropriate manner. Whilst others showed limited analysis and evaluation or failed to answer all parts of the question. Once again candidates should be reminded to read not only the question but where relevant, the accompanying scaffolding bullet points.

Comments on individual questions/sections

Section A:

All questions allowed candidates to focus on specific areas of acting/design. However, some candidates failed to differentiate between props and set, which impacted on their marks. Once again, as in previous years, a minority of candidates discussed aspects that were not mentioned in the question as part of their answer. Particularly well answered by the majority of candidates was the wider knowledge question, Q5. The specific focus noted within the question, enabled candidates to focus their responses and elicited some sound responses from candidates of all abilities.

Section B:

Within this section, there was a balance of responses for both 6.1 & 7.1 and as in previous years candidates had been given the opportunity to view a wide range of interesting and exciting productions. Interestingly, most candidates chose to write about productions viewed early in their GCSE course as opposed to streamed productions. Whilst for many this didn't prove a problem, for others there was a lack of specific detail and response as their recollections as an audience member seemed to be somewhat hazy.

Summary of key points

Section A:

- Clear awareness of the difference between set and props
- Discussing aspects not mentioned within the question, or failing to respond to the bulleted scaffolding notes
- Noting the aspect of the character within Q5, seemed to help candidates to focus on the required elements noted within the bullet points.

Section B:

- Interesting and stimulating productions that really captured candidates' imagination
- Taking time to read the requirements carefully within each individual question i.e. a small number of candidates discussed more than one actor within 7.1.



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