

GCSE

Drama

Unit 1: Drama Written Paper
Mark scheme

4240
June 2015

Version 1.0: Final

Mark schemes are prepared by the Lead Assessment Writer and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation events which all associates participate in and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation process ensures that the mark scheme covers the students' responses to questions and that every associate understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for standardisation each associate analyses a number of students' scripts: alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed and legislated for. If, after the standardisation process, associates encounter unusual answers which have not been raised they are required to refer these to the Lead Assessment Writer.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of students' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

Further copies of this Mark Scheme are available from aqa.org.uk

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General guidance on the use of the mark scheme

Questions are marked out of 40 according to the banding provided on the following pages and question-specific mark bands in the mark schemes for individual questions.

Examiners should be positive in their marking, rewarding points that candidates **do** make rather than penalising them for omissions.

All candidates' work should be marked against the criteria, not against a notional 'perfect' answer or against the last script marked. The different strengths and weaknesses of each script should always be weighed against the generic mark bands and the mark scheme for individual questions.

As well as using all of the five mark bands as appropriate, examiners should use the full range of marks available within any one mark band. If an answer is described exactly by a particular band, it should be placed at the top of that band. When an answer fulfils all the criteria of a mark band and has several qualities of the mark band above, then it should be placed in the next mark band. Marks will be awarded holistically according to the criteria and not according to an assumed numerical system based on the bullet points given for guidance.

Use of the Mark Bands

Question 01 is a standard question to provide context for the work studied for Section A and success with this question is in terms of providing all aspects of the question asked.

For all of the other questions the quality of the responses will be differentiated with respect to the clarity of communication and the bands are organised to reflect this.

In the scenario that a question asks for examples of a skill, examiners will allow responses which:

- give examples of aspects of the same specific skill. For example, a candidate writing about their use of voice could focus on accent and projection, each one being a specific example.

or

- give examples of different skills. For example, a candidate writing about how they applied their skills in rehearsal could write about voice and gesture, each one being a specific example.

or

- give examples of any 'time moments.' For example, a candidate could write about a moment of research from the early stages of rehearsal, and then write about a moment where they received feedback from the later stages of rehearsal, each one being a specific example.

Assessment Objectives

AO1: “Recall, select and communicate their knowledge and understanding of drama to generate, explore and develop ideas”

(20% of total examination)

AO1 is assessed in Questions 01, 02, 05, 07, 09 and 11.

AO3: “Analyse and evaluate their own work and that of others using appropriate terminology”

(20% of total examination)

AO3 is assessed in Questions 03, 04, 06, 08, 10 and 12.

Quality of written communication

There is no separate mark allocation for Quality of Written Communication (QWC), which is contained within Assessment Objective 1:

“Recall, select and communicate their knowledge and understanding of drama to generate, explore and develop ideas”

and Assessment Objective 3:

“Analyse and evaluate their own work and that of others using appropriate terminology.”

Written answers must be expressed in continuous prose. Wherever communication of the response is clear the full range of marks is available.

SECTION A PRACTICAL WORK COMPLETED DURING THE COURSE

Choose **one** piece of practical work that you have completed during the course, working as an actor **or** designer **or** technician. **All** of your answers must be about the **same** piece of practical work.

You need to focus specifically on your **individual** contribution to the piece of practical work and the **same** selected skill.

Question 1

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Describe your piece of practical work; include reference to **all** of the following:

- whether you were involved as an actor **or** designer **or** technician
- the genre of the piece
- the style of the piece
- the period of the piece
- the performance space used **and** how it was configured
- your target audience
- any technical/design elements used in the piece (if applicable).

[10 marks]

Candidates should provide a full description of the nature of the practical work, giving a context for their work in rehearsal and performance.

If all bullet points are included in the description, the response should be placed in Band 1. If one bullet point is not included, the response cannot be placed higher than Band 2. However, a candidate can still gain full marks if they do not write about technical/design elements; examiners should be mindful as to whether technical/design elements are applicable to the piece being described.

Mark Bands	
Band 1 9-10 marks	The candidate demonstrates their knowledge and understanding of their piece of practical work with a very clear description of the piece, which includes all of the stated elements.
Band 2 7-8 marks	The candidate demonstrates their knowledge and understanding of their piece of practical work with a clear description of the piece, which includes most of the stated elements.
Band 3 5-6 marks	The candidate demonstrates their knowledge and understanding of their piece of practical work with a reasonably clear description of the piece, which includes some of the stated elements.
Band 4 3-4 marks	The candidate demonstrates their knowledge and understanding of their piece of practical work with a slightly unclear description of the piece, which includes restricted reference to the stated elements.
Band 5 1-2 marks	The candidate demonstrates their knowledge and understanding of their piece of practical work with an unclear description of the piece, which includes little reference to the stated elements.
A score of 0 (zero marks) is awarded only if there is nothing worthy of any credit in the response	

0	2
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Explain how you prepared for your piece of practical work with reference to your chosen skill, giving **two** specific examples from the rehearsal process.

[10 marks]

This question requires candidates to **explain** how they prepared for their piece of practical work, with reference to their chosen skill, during the rehearsal process.

Examiners should expect candidates' answers to:

- focus on their **own** contribution to the piece of practical work
- explain the preparation of their chosen skill, as identified in 01
- give **two** specific examples from the rehearsal process

Mark Bands	
Band 1 9-10 marks	The candidate will give a very clear explanation of their preparation for their practical work, and will provide full exemplification from the rehearsal process.
Band 2 7-8 marks	The candidate will give a clear explanation of their preparation for their practical work, and will provide exemplification from the rehearsal process.
Band 3 5-6 marks	The candidate will give a reasonably clear explanation of their preparation for their practical work, and will provide some exemplification from the rehearsal process.
Band 4 3-4 marks	The candidate will give a slightly unclear explanation of their preparation for their practical work, and will provide limited exemplification from the rehearsal process.
Band 5 1-2 marks	The candidate will give an unclear explanation of their preparation for their practical work, and will provide little or no exemplification from the rehearsal process.
A score of 0 (Zero marks) is awarded only if there is nothing worthy of any credit in the response	

0	3	Analyse how your practical skills improved during the rehearsal process, giving two specific examples of when you showed improvement as an actor or designer or technician.
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[10 marks]

This question requires candidates to **analyse** how they improved during the rehearsal process and preparation period.

Examiners should expect candidates' answers to:

- analyse how they personally improved their practical skills
- give **two** specific examples from the rehearsal process where they showed improvement

Candidates may choose two separate examples, one from the beginning and one from the end of the rehearsal process and preparation period, highlighting their improvement. Or, instead, candidates may choose two separate 'light bulb' moments from points in the rehearsal process and preparation period where they felt they had a greater understanding of their work due to their improvement. Candidates can, therefore, choose any two examples.

Mark Bands	
Band 1 9-10 marks	The candidate will give a very clear analysis of the improvement of their skills during the rehearsal process and preparation period. They will provide full exemplification where they demonstrated this improvement.
Band 2 7-8 marks	The candidate will give a clear analysis of the improvement of their skills during the rehearsal process and preparation period. They will provide exemplification of where they demonstrated this improvement.
Band 3 5-6 marks	The candidate will give a reasonably clear analysis of the improvement of their skills during the rehearsal process and preparation period. They will provide some exemplification of where they demonstrated this improvement.
Band 4 3-4 marks	The candidate will give a slightly unclear analysis of the improvement of their skills during the rehearsal process and preparation period. They will provide limited exemplification of where they demonstrated this improvement.
Band 5 1-2 marks	The candidate will give an unclear analysis of the improvement of their skills during the rehearsal process and preparation period. They will provide little or no exemplification where they demonstrated this improvement.
A score of 0 (Zero marks) is awarded only if there is nothing worthy of any credit in the response	

0	4
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Evaluate how successful your contribution was to the final performance for your target audience, giving **two** specific examples where you felt you achieved your aims.

[10 marks]

This question requires candidates to evaluate how successful their contribution was to the performance. Candidates should include their aims.

Examiners should expect candidates' answers to:

- evaluate how successful their personal contribution was to the final performance
- include their aims for the target audience
- give **two** specific examples from the performance

Mark Bands	
Band 1 9-10 marks	The candidate will give a very clear evaluation of the success of their contribution to the final performance, and will provide full exemplification of where they achieved their aims.
Band 2 7-8 marks	The candidate will give a clear evaluation of the success of their contribution to the final performance, and will provide exemplification of where they achieved their aims.
Band 3 5-6 marks	The candidate will give a reasonably clear evaluation of the success of their contribution to the final performance, and will provide some exemplification of where they achieved their aims.
Band 4 3-4 marks	The candidate will give a slightly unclear evaluation of the success of their contribution to the final performance, and will provide limited exemplification of where they achieved their aims.
Band 5 1-2 marks	The candidate will give an unclear evaluation of the success of their contribution to the final performance, and will provide little or no exemplification of where they achieved their aims.
A score of 0 (zero marks) is awarded only if there is nothing worthy of any credit in the response	

SECTION B STUDY AND PERFORMANCE OF A SCRIPTED PLAY**Question 2**

Choose **one** extract from a play you have studied **and** performed during your course.

0	5	Explain how you developed your acting skills, giving three specific examples from the rehearsal process that helped you to create the character(s) you played.
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You should discuss your research, rehearsal techniques, and any work that you did with the script.

[20 marks]

This question requires candidates to focus on the development of their skills in rehearsal.

Examiners should expect candidates' answers to include:

- identification of the play, playwright, and extract chosen
- reference to research, rehearsal techniques, and any work done using the script
- the development of their own acting skills in rehearsal to create the character(s) played
- **three** specific examples from the rehearsal process where they developed their acting skills

Mark Bands	
Band 1 17-20 marks	The candidate will give a very clear explanation of the development of their acting skills during rehearsals to create the character(s) they played. They will provide full exemplification, and make purposeful reference to their rehearsal and other preparation work.
Band 2 13-16 marks	The candidate will give a clear explanation of the development of their acting skills during rehearsals to create the character(s) they play. They will provide exemplification and make useful reference to their rehearsal and other preparation work.
Band 3 8-12 marks	The candidate will give a reasonably clear explanation of the development of their acting skills during rehearsals to create the character(s) they play. They will provide some exemplification, and make some reference to their rehearsal and other preparation work.
Band 4 4-7 marks	The candidate will give a slightly unclear explanation of the development of their acting skills during rehearsals to create the character(s) they play. They will provide limited exemplification, and might make reference to aspects of their rehearsal and other preparation work.
Band 5 1-3 marks	The candidate will give an unclear explanation of the development of their acting skills during rehearsals to create the character(s) they play. They will provide little or no exemplification. Reference may be made to some aspects of their rehearsal and other preparation work, although this is unlikely to be clear .
A score of 0 (zero marks) is awarded only if there is nothing worthy of any credit in the response	

0 6

Evaluate how successful you were in using your physical and vocal skills to communicate your character(s) to the audience in the final performance, giving **three** specific examples where you were particularly effective.

[20 marks]

This question requires candidates to focus on communicating their character(s) in **performance**.

Examiners should expect candidates' answers to include:

- discussion of physical and vocal skills used
- an evaluation of how successfully they communicated their character(s)
- **three** specific examples from the **performance** where they were particularly effective

Mark Bands	
Band 1 17-20 marks	The candidate will give a very clear evaluation of how successfully they used their physical and vocal skills to communicate their character(s). They will provide full exemplification and make purposeful reference to where they were effective.
Band 2 13-16 marks	The candidate will give a clear evaluation of how successfully they used their physical and vocal skills. They will provide exemplification and make useful reference to where they were effective.
Band 3 8-12 marks	The candidate will give a reasonably clear evaluation of how successfully they used their physical and vocal skills. They will provide some exemplification and make some reference to where they were effective.
Band 4 4-7 marks	The candidate will give a slightly unclear evaluation of how successfully they used the physical or vocal skills. They will provide limited exemplification, and might make reference to where they were effective.
Band 5 1-3 marks	The candidate will give an unclear evaluation of how successfully they used their physical or vocal skills. They will provide little or no exemplification. Reference may be made to some aspects of where they were effective, although this is unlikely to be clear .
A score of 0 (zero marks) is awarded only if there is nothing worthy of any credit in the response	

Question 3

Choose **one** extract from a play that you have studied and worked on, and **one** design **or** technical skill on which to focus.

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Explain how you developed your design **or** technical skill, giving **three** specific examples from the rehearsal process that helped you to develop your skill.

You should discuss your research, work in rehearsals, and any work that you did with the script.

[20 marks]

This question requires candidates to focus on the development of their design or technical skills in rehearsal.

Examiners should expect candidates' answers to include:

- identification of the play, playwright, and extract chosen
- reference to research and the design/technical skill used in rehearsals
- the development of their own design or technical skills in rehearsal
- **three** specific examples from the rehearsal process where they developed their design/technical skill.

Mark Bands	
Band 1 17-20 marks	The candidate will give a very clear explanation of the development of their design/technical skill during rehearsals. They will provide full exemplification and make purposeful reference to their rehearsal and other preparation work.
Band 2 13-16 marks	The candidate will give a clear explanation of the development of their design/technical skill during rehearsals. They will provide exemplification, and make useful reference to their rehearsal and other preparation work.
Band 3 8-12 marks	The candidate will give a reasonably clear explanation of the development of their design/technical skill during rehearsals. They will provide some exemplification, and make some reference to their rehearsal and other preparation work.
Band 4 4-7 marks	The candidate will give a slightly unclear explanation of the development of their design/technical skills during rehearsals. They will provide limited exemplification, and might make reference to their rehearsal and other preparation work.
Band 5 1-3 marks	The candidate will give an unclear explanation of the development of their design/technical skills during rehearsals. They will provide little or no exemplification. Reference may be made to some aspects of their rehearsal and other preparation work although this is unlikely to be clear .
A score of 0 (zero marks) is awarded only if there is nothing worthy of any credit in the response	

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Evaluate how successful you were in realising your skill, giving **three** specific examples from the final performance where you felt you contributed effectively to the success of the piece.

[20 marks]

This question requires candidates to focus on the realisation of their own design/technical skill in **performance**.

Examiners should expect candidates' answers to include:

- an evaluation of how successfully they realised their skill in the final performance
- **three** specific examples from the **performance** where they felt their contribution was effective.

Mark Bands	
Band 1 17-20 marks	The candidate will give a very clear evaluation of how successfully they realised their chosen skill in the final performance. They will provide full exemplification and make purposeful reference to where they contributed to the success of the piece.
Band 2 13-16 marks	The candidate will give a clear evaluation of how successfully they realised their chosen skill in the final performance. They will provide exemplification and make useful reference to where they contributed to the success of the piece.
Band 3 8-12 marks	The candidate will give a reasonably clear evaluation of how successfully they realised their chosen skill in the final performance. They will provide some exemplification and make some reference to where they contributed to the success of the piece.
Band 4 4-7 marks	The candidate will give a slightly unclear evaluation of how successfully they realised their chosen skill in the final performance. They will provide limited exemplification and might make reference to where they contributed to the success of the piece.
Band 5 1-3 marks	The candidate will give an unclear evaluation of how successfully they realised their chosen skill in the final performance. They will provide little or no exemplification. Reference may be made to some aspects of where they contributed to the success of the piece, although this is unlikely to be clear .
A score of 0 (zero marks) is awarded only if there is nothing worthy of any credit in the response	

SECTION C STUDY OF A LIVE THEATRE PRODUCTION SEEN**Question 4**

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Choose **one** extract from a play that you have seen in performance.

Explain why the acting in this extract was particularly successful, giving **three** specific examples from the extract where the actor(s) successfully demonstrated their physical **and** vocal skills.

[20 marks]

This question requires candidates to focus on acting skills seen in a live theatre performance.

Examiners should expect candidates' answers to include:

- identification of the play, the performance venue, and the extract chosen
- an explanation of the success of the acting in the extract
- **three** specific examples from the performance where the actor(s) successfully demonstrated their physical and vocal skills

Mark Bands	
Band 1 17-20 marks	The candidate will give a very clear explanation of why the acting in the extract was particularly successful. They will provide full exemplification, and will make purposeful reference to where the actor(s) successfully demonstrated their physical and vocal skills.
Band 2 13-16 marks	The candidate will give a clear explanation of why the acting in the extract was particularly successful. They will provide exemplification, and make useful reference to where the actor(s) successfully demonstrated their physical and vocal skills.
Band 3 8-12 marks	The candidate will give a reasonably clear explanation of why the acting in the extract was particularly successful. They will provide some exemplification, and make some reference to where the actor(s) successfully demonstrated their physical and vocal skills.
Band 4 4-7 marks	The candidate will give a slightly unclear explanation of why the acting in the extract was particularly successful. They will provide limited exemplification, and might make reference to where the actor(s) successfully demonstrated their physical and vocal skills.
Band 5 1-3 marks	The candidate will give an unclear explanation of why the acting in the extract was particularly successful. They will provide little or no exemplification. Reference may be made to where the actor(s) successfully demonstrated their physical and vocal skills, although this is unlikely to be clear .
A score of 0 (zero marks) is awarded only if there is nothing worthy of any credit in the response	

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Evaluate the acting in the production you saw, giving **three** specific examples from this extract where the style of performance was communicated clearly.

You should discuss the acting style you saw in relation to the original play you studied.

[20 marks]

This question requires candidates to focus on the acting style seen in a live theatre performance.

Examiners should expect candidates' answers to include:

- an evaluation of the acting in the production
- knowledge and understanding of their practical study of the play (the specification states, "*candidates must have studied the play from a practical point of view, and should be able to show their knowledge and understanding of the way in which the text was realised in the production.*")
- **three** specific examples where the acting communicated the style of the performance

Mark Bands	
Band 1 17-20 marks	The candidate will give a very clear evaluation of the acting in the production that they saw. They will provide full exemplification and make purposeful reference to where the acting clearly communicated the style of the play.
Band 2 13-16 marks	The candidate will give a clear evaluation of the acting in the production that they saw. They will provide exemplification and make useful reference to where the acting clearly communicated the style of the play.
Band 3 8-12 marks	The candidate will give a reasonably clear evaluation of the acting in the production that they saw. They will provide some exemplification and make some reference to where the acting clearly communicated the style of the play.
Band 4 4-7 marks	The candidate will give a slightly unclear evaluation of the acting in the production that they saw. They will provide limited exemplification and might make reference to where the acting clearly communicated the style of the play.
Band 5 1-3 marks	The candidate will give an unclear evaluation of the acting in the production that they saw. They will provide little or no exemplification. Reference may be made to some aspects of where the acting clearly communicated the style of the play, although this is unlikely to be clear .
A score of 0 (zero marks) is awarded only if there is nothing worthy of any credit in the response	

Question 5

Choose **one** extract from a play that you have seen in performance, and **one** design or technical skill on which to focus.

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Explain why the design **or** technical skill was particularly successful, giving **three** specific examples from the extract where this skill made an impact on you.

You should discuss how the skill you have chosen enhanced this extract in the production.

[20 marks]

This question requires candidates to focus on design/technical elements seen in a live theatre performance.

Examiners should expect candidates' answers to include:

- identification of the play, the performance venue, and the extract chosen
- an explanation of the success of the design/technical skill in the extract
- **three** specific examples from the performance where the design/technical skill made an impact

Mark Bands	
Band 1 17-20 marks	The candidate will give a very clear explanation of the success of a design/technical skill in performance. They will provide full exemplification and make purposeful reference to where the performance made an impact on them.
Band 2 13-16 marks	The candidate will give a clear explanation of the success of a design/technical skill in performance. They will provide exemplification and make useful reference to where the performance made an impact on them.
Band 3 8-12 marks	The candidate will give a reasonably clear explanation of the success of a design/technical skill in performance. They will provide some exemplification and make some reference to where the performance made an impact on them.
Band 4 4-7 marks	The candidate will give a slightly unclear explanation of the success of a design/technical skill in performance. They will provide limited exemplification and might make reference to where the performance made an impact on them.
Band 5 1-3 marks	The candidate will give an unclear explanation of the success of a design/technical skill in performance. They will provide little or no exemplification. Reference may be made to some aspects of where the performance made an impact on them, although this is unlikely to be clear .
A score of 0 (zero marks) is awarded only if there is nothing worthy of any credit in the response	

1	2
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Evaluate the design **or** technical skill in the production you saw, giving **three** specific examples from this extract where you felt this skill enhanced the style of the production.

You should discuss the production style in relation to the original play you studied.

[20 marks]

This question requires candidates to focus on the production style seen in a live theatre performance.

Examiners should expect candidates' answers to include:

- an evaluation of the design/technical skill in the production
- knowledge and understanding of their practical study of the play (the specification states, "*candidates must have studied the play from a practical point of view, and should be able to show their knowledge and understanding of the way in which the text was realised in the production.*")
- **three** specific examples where the design/technical skill enhanced the style of the production

Mark Bands	
Band 1 17-20 marks	The candidate will give a very clear evaluation of the design/technical skill in the production that they saw. They will provide full exemplification and make purposeful reference to where they felt the skill enhanced the style of the production.
Band 2 13-16 marks	The candidate will give a clear evaluation of the design/technical skill in the production that they saw. They will provide exemplification from the production and make useful reference to where they felt the skill enhanced the style of the production.
Band 3 8-12 marks	The candidate will give a reasonably clear evaluation of the design/technical skill in the production that they saw. They will provide some exemplification from the production and make some reference to where they felt the skill enhanced the style of the production.
Band 4 4-7 marks	The candidate will give a slightly unclear evaluation of the design/technical skill in the production that they saw. They will provide limited exemplification from the production and might make reference to where they felt the skill enhanced the style of the production.
Band 5 1-3 marks	The candidate will give an unclear evaluation of the design/technical skill in the production that they saw. They will provide little or no exemplification from the production. Reference may be made to some aspects where they felt the skill enhanced the style of the production, although this is unlikely to be clear .
A score of 0 (zero marks) is awarded only if there is nothing worthy of any credit in the response	