



## Teacher Resource Bank

A-level Drama and Theatre Studies

DRAM1B Additional Exemplar Answer:

Antigone



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## SAMPLE CANDIDATE ANSWERS DRAM1B

### INTRODUCTION

The sample answer and commentaries which follow are provided to illustrate the application of the DRAM1B mark scheme.

#### Unit 1, Section B - Candidate 1

The answer of Candidate 1 is to a question from the January 2012 DRAM1B question paper.

#### CANDIDATE 1

Explain how you would perform the role of Tiresias in his interaction with Creon in order to gain audience respect for Tiresias.

*Teiresias appears in the play just after Antigone's final appearance in the play, when she has been sent to her death by Creon as punishment for a crime of family loyalty. While performing the role of Teiresias, I would wear colourful, flowing robes, with a majestic purple cloak, this would contrast to Creon's darker, stronger appearing robes, and would also signal to the audience my supernaturality, as I am a mouthpiece for the gods. During the scene, I would not wear a mask, as was done when 'Antigone' was originally performed in Ancient Greece, as this would hide my face from the audience, and mean that a modern audience would relate to my emotions much less.*

**Comment [JE1]:** Clear aims and overview of character.

*At the beginning of the scene, I would make a grand entrance from the left parados. I would make this grand by stamping heavily on my feet while I was led in by my Boy, this would show that I am an important person, as I grabbed the audience's attention in this way. I would also play this character quite old, so I would hunch over slightly, and hold my hands in a scrunched way so that they looked withered and old. Throughout this scene, I would also have to deal with the obstacle of keeping my eyes shut throughout, as Teiresias is blind, this would be challenging but would also help me to relate to the character more deeply.*

**Comment [JE2]:** How?

For my first line, "Senators of Thebes - and your new King, Creon!", I would step into centre stage of the scene and lift my arms up in a careful measured way, as if opening myself up to the Chorus members who would be staring up at me from the orchestra, and to Creon, who would be standing to my right, taken aback my surprise entrance. For this line, I would also speak it slowly and meaningfully, in a respectful tone. This use of gesture and voice would highlight how I have come to Thebes in peace. The elaborateness of my entrance, the peaceful friendliness of my first line, and the way that the Chorus and Creon would stop and stare admiringly as I entered would all prompt the audience to gain respect for my character, as they can see that he is a good man, who is widely respected by the characters in the play itself.

Comment [JE3]: Moment well evoked.

Comment [JE4]: Well focused on the Question.

As Creon interrogates Teiresias about his reasons for being there, Teiresias says "Then for God's sake, listen to me now. You're like a man balanced on a razor". For this line I would step towards Creon with my arm outstretched towards him, symbolising visually that I am reaching out to him. I would say the line loudly and urgently, with a foreboding tone, highlighting that bad news is to come. The audience would respect me at this moment as I obviously have a lot of power and knowledge, the decisiveness of my gesture shows that I have wisdom I am desperate to share.

Comment [JE5]: Very clear.

For my speech describing the omens I have seen that show that Creon must have Polynice's buried, as he has offended the gods by breaking their law that bodies must be buried, I would use a range of vocal tones, to show off my vocal skills and talent, something which the original Ancient Greek actors used these long speeches for. For instance, I would start off the speech slowly and carefully, speaking in a calm tone of how "I was sitting in my usual seat". I would then proceed to give a supernatural edge to my voice, becoming more monotonous and quiet, but also speeding up the pace and spitting the words, as the speech becomes more graphic - for lines like "A filthy liquid ran from the flesh". Then as the speech goes on, I would be a lot louder by the end, almost shouting the lines "Is there anyone more stupid than the stupid man who cannot see his own stupidity?", with the

corners of my wide open mouth down turned in horror, gesturing tragically at the Heavens, with tensed fingers. This build to a crescendo of a speech would stick to the Greek tradition of speeches slowly building momentum to show oratory talent. The audience would gain respect for me as I have shown my wisdom and **control**, and highlighted through my supernatural tone of voice that I am almost other-worldly, and I am therefore very important.

**Comment [JE6]:** Good focus on question, with clear ideas.

As Creon is offended by my revelation, he calls me "old man.", at this, I would purse my lips and harden my jaw, keeping my hands clasped in front of me, but showing tension in them to highlight that I am offended. The audience would gain respect for me here as I am clearly holding my tongue while Creon insults me, an admirable thing to **do**.

**Comment [JE7]:** Why would Tiresias find "old man" an insult? Needs reference to Creon's intent.

As Creon speaks the last line of his speech, "greed for profit are the only motives that matter to him!", my facial expression would have hardened further, and I would visibly grit my teeth before I burst out with the line which starts our stychomythic exchange "Are there any wise men left? Anywhere?", I would roar this line in a cutting tone, emphasising the word "Anywhere?", showing my anger that Creon won't see sense. The audience would respect me for standing up to Creon and mocking him here by implying he is not wise.

Following the stychomythic exchange, I have a final speech, this speech would contrastingly be much more about warning than advising. I would point my finger at Creon accusatorily and spit the line "The suffering you inflicted upon others", specifically emphasising the word "you" to condemn Creon. I go on to describe the bad times that are to come. "Dogs and vultures will swarm in the streets!", for this prophesising line I would say it in an angry yet ethereal, almost rasping voice, raising my arms up in front of me as if lifting some supernatural energy in front of everyone. The audience would gain respect for Teiresias here as he is clearly in touch with a higher **power**.

**Comment [JE8]:** Well put.

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*For my exit, I would grab my boy's shoulder, indicating to him that it is time to leave, as I did this I would walk with purpose, but not very fast as I am so old. The Chorus would bow their heads as I left as age was revered in Ancient Greece, the audience would see this sentiment and also gain respect for Teiresias. As I walked away, my head would be held high as I am clearly the bigger man in the argument, warning Creon about the wrongness of his deed. Creon's rudeness and accusations would serve to further highlight the nobility of Teiresias as he walks away, having done all he can to try to help Creon, therefore respect would be gained.*

## **CANDIDATE 1**

### **Commentary**

- A very full, precise and effective answer that addresses all aspects and demands of the question.
- There is a clear understanding of the character and the focus on gaining respect is maintained throughout.
- Good use of text to support ideas.

### **A02**

- Inventive, shows very sound understanding. Very good use of text.

*Mark = 17 out of 17 (Band 1)*

### **A03**

- Coherent; knowledge of period and genre. Total focus on audience respect.

*Mark = 33 out of 33 (Band 1)*

*Total = 50 out of 50*