

# Performance Studies

OCR Advanced Subsidiary GCE Unit 2558

## Instructions for Teachers for Performance Realisation

### 1 Preparation of Material

- (a) All candidates must prepare two pieces of practical work for assessment by the OCR visiting examiner. The style of these pieces is determined by the works they have studied for Unit 2557: Contextual Studies 1.
- (b) One piece will be an extract from a piece studied for Unit 2557; the second piece will be an original devised piece based on techniques from other work studied for Unit 2557.
- (c) The pieces are assessed separately; there is no requirement to link them.
- (d) The pieces will each be in a different art form and each piece will be in a *single* art form.
- (e) Both pieces must be performed from memory.
- (f) Pieces may be for a solo performer or up to seven performers. The total length of the piece is determined by the number of people in it. For a solo piece, there is a maximum length of three minutes; for two candidates there is a maximum length of six minutes; for three candidates there is a maximum length of nine minutes etc. There is no penalty for producing a piece of less than the maximum but candidates should ensure that their pieces are long enough to fully demonstrate their performance skills. Examiners may stop pieces that exceed the maximum length.
- (g) All of the performers in a piece must be candidates for the examination. In the following exceptional cases, however, non-candidates (maximum of two) will be permitted to perform:
  - (i) An accompaniment to a solo instrumental or vocal piece provided that the part is written down for the accompanist.
  - (ii) A 'sleeping' partner who serves only a focus for the action.
  - (iii) A walk-on part where there is a practical necessity for another person (e.g. to ring a bell, to hammer in a nail, to point in the distance)

## **2 Arranging the Examination**

- (a) A visiting examiner appointed by OCR will conduct the examination during the examination period. The visit will take place between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> June.
- (b) The Centre must complete a Visit Arrangement Form (VAF) to offer the examiner a choice of at least three dates for the examination. The examination should be timetabled with the 2561 performances wherever possible. OCR may reserve the right to mark the examination from a recording (chaptered DVD or VHS) if the Centre cannot offer sufficient choice of dates.
- (c) The Centre must send to the examiner details of the practitioners, works studied and details of the group sizes, fourteen days before the date of the examination.
- (d) The Centre must also send to the examiner photographs of the candidates and a timetable for the day fourteen days in advance of the examination date.
- (e) When producing the timetable, allow sufficient writing up time for the examiner after each performance. As a guide allow the same amount of time for writing up as is allowed for the piece itself.
- (f) The Examiner will meet the candidates before the performance for a short discussion (not assessed). The Centre must provide a separate room for this discussion. Allow the same amount of time for the discussion as is allowed for the piece itself. Allow periodic breaks for the examiner and one hour for lunch.
- (g) The discussion will centre on the performance skills learned for the repertoire piece and the techniques used to create the devised piece.

## **3 On the Day of the Examination**

- (a) A table and a table lamp must be provided for the examiner. This must be in a position not overlooked by teachers, candidates, or the audience (if there is one).
- (b) The performance must be recorded either on chaptered DVD or on video (and transferred to a standard size VHS or VHS compatible cassette) and handed over to the examiner at the end of the examination visit. An effective means of achieving this for Centres using digital format cameras or 'mini' camcorders, is by linking the camera directly to a recorder at the time of the performance. The Centre may retain any digital recording from the camera for their own purposes and hand the DVD/tape from the recorder to the examiner. The recording will be used in cases of result enquires therefore it should be clear and audible record of the programme as seen by the examiner. Candidates must clearly identify themselves to the camera at the beginning of each performance.
- (c) A running order of the contents of the video/DVD and the Centre details must be enclosed with the recording.
- (d) The examiner will not be at liberty to discuss candidates' work or the marks awarded for the performances.
- (e) The examiner will complete a report to the Centre, which will be forwarded to OCR for despatch at the same time as the candidates' results.