

The Universities of Melbourne, Adelaide, Western Australia and Tasmania, the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs in New South Wales, and the Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts in Queensland.

## **DRAMA AND PERFORMANCE**

### **ASSOCIATE - SECTION II (PERFORMER)**

9:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

THURSDAY, 17 MAY 2007

Time Allowed : Three hours

NB. The candidate's written expression will be taken into consideration.

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#### **Question 1**

- (a) Transcribe the following passage into phonetic script (using narrow form IPA symbols) to represent General Australian speech. Indicate primary and secondary stress, vowel length, syllabic consonants, linking [r] and dark [ɫ] as they occur. [10 marks]

I don't know anything much but I'll tell you what I think. I think my grandmother's a seal in a long dress, and she's got flippers for legs. She's very smooth and slippery, smooth-looking all over, and she always wears the same kind of dress, long, grey, shining silk that changes colour in the light....It fastens up to her neck and goes down to her feet, hiding everything, because really her legs are like flippers.

Hewett, D. *Song of the seals*, from Brisbane, K. *Goldenvally/Song of the seals* (Currency Press, 1985) 91.

- (b) (i) An actor should have a comprehensive understanding of the elements of pronunciation when approaching characterisation. [5 marks]

Discuss this statement.

- (ii) Your current director is complaining that you are speaking too quickly and that your speech is unintelligible. Explain why excessive pace will impact on speech in this way. [8 marks]
- (iii) Suggest three strategies you may implement to control pace more effectively and to ensure intelligibility in your speech. [7 marks]

### Question 2

- (a) You are to perform in an open-air setting without the aid of a microphone. [15 marks]

Outline the warm up routine you will undertake to ensure vocal readiness for performance.

Specify the reasons for including particular exercises and the benefits you hope to gain from each.

- (b) (i) Describe two exercises that will assist an actor to extend their vocal range. [10 marks]
- (ii) Discuss the elements that need to be considered to achieve a rhythmic flow of speech in performance. [10 marks]

### Question 3

- (a) Undue tension can inhibit an actor's ability to perform. Discuss the strategies you will implement to ensure that your performance is not marred by tension at an upcoming audition. [10 marks]
- (b) How will knowledge of nineteenth century movement and style guide your creation and playing of a character in a play published between 1800 and 1914? Specify a particular character. [10 marks]

### Question 4

You are involved in a play where the director has arrived at the first rehearsal with moves set for the entire play and is insistent that you adhere strictly to this blocking. [15 marks]

You and the other cast members are feeling that this approach is restricting your creativity and that some of the planned moves do not support the characterisations/relationships you are working to achieve.

What strategies will you implement to confront and resolve the issue?