

**DRAMA**

**0411/12/T/PRE**

Paper 1 Set Text

**May/June 2014**

PRE-RELEASE MATERIAL

**To be given to candidates on receipt by the Centre.**

**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

The questions in Paper 1 will be based on the three stimuli and on the extract from Alan Bennett's play *The Madness of George III* provided in this booklet.

You may do any preparatory work that is considered appropriate. It is recommended that you perform the extract, at least informally.

You will **not** be permitted to take this copy of the text **or** any other notes or preparation into the examination.

A clean copy of the text will be provided with the Question Paper.



This document consists of **33** printed pages and **3** blank pages.

**STIMULI**

You are required to produce a short piece of drama on each stimulus in preparation for your written examination. Questions will be asked on **each** of the stimuli and will cover both practical and theoretical issues.

- 1 A tempestuous day
- 2 The value of money
- 3 I love my new gadget!

## EXTRACT

**Taken from *The Madness of George III*, by Alan Bennett**

These notes are intended to help you understand the context of the drama.

Alan Bennett's play *The Madness of George III* is set in England towards the end of the 18th century. It was first performed in London in 1991. Although based on historical events, Bennett alters some points for dramatic effect.

George III became King in 1760 at the age of 22. He reigned for almost 60 years, making him one of the longest-reigning British monarchs. His many achievements included the founding of the Royal Academy of Arts, and he was a passionate advocate of science and literature. His reign is remembered for two main reasons, however: the loss of Britain's American colonies, and his frequent bouts of mental instability, possibly caused by the illness porphyria, which affected him in his twenties and at various points later in his life. Various treatments were tried, one in particular being to apply poultices to his body, so that the resulting painful blisters would draw out his 'harmful vapours'.

At the time the play is set, Britain had two main political parties: the Whigs (led by Charles James Fox), and the Tories (led by William Pitt the Younger). The method of appointing the British Prime Minister during the reign of George III relied on the King's patronage. This is significant in the play, as Pitt is Prime Minister at the King's invitation. Pitt could be replaced by Fox if the King's illness prevented him from continuing to reign.

The play is in two Acts, and the extract consists of the whole of Act One.

The extract is set in three locations: Windsor is the residence of the King; Westminster is the home of the British Parliament, and Carlton House is the residence of the Prince of Wales. The settings are as follows:

Scene 1	Windsor
Scene 2	Windsor
Scene 3	Westminster
Scene 4	Carlton House
Scene 5	Windsor
Scene 6	Windsor
Scene 7	Windsor
Scene 8	Westminster
Scene 9	Windsor
Scene 10	Carlton House
Scene 11	Westminster
Scene 12	Windsor
Scene 13	Westminster
Scene 14	Windsor

## Characters

### The Royal Household

King George III  
Queen Charlotte  
Prince of Wales  
Duke of York

The King's wife  
The King's eldest son, and heir to the throne  
The King's younger son

Lady Elizabeth Pembroke

The Queen's Mistress of the Robes (chief lady-in-waiting)

Captain Fitzroy  
Greville

An experienced equerry to the King  
A novice equerry to the King

Arthur Papandiek  
Fortnum  
Braun  
Unnamed page

A page (described as 'the kindest of the pages')  
A page  
A page

### The Doctors

Sir George Baker  
Sir Lucas Pepys  
Dr Richard Warren  
Dr Willis

The King's 'first physician'  
A supposed expert, whom Baker consults  
The Prince of Wales' physician  
A doctor and clergyman

### The Government (Tories)

William Pitt the Younger  
Henry Dundas  
Edward Thurlow

The Prime Minister  
A government minister  
The Lord Chancellor

### The Opposition (Whigs)

Charles James Fox  
Richard Brinsley Sheridan

Leader of the Opposition and arch-rival of Pitt  
Whig politician (and playwright)

### Others

Sir Boothby Skrymshir  
Ramsden

Member of Parliament and landowner  
His nephew

Margaret Nicholson

A commoner

Maid  
Footman

1 WINDSOR

*The curtain rises to Handel's Music for the Royal Fireworks,  
the stage bare except for a flight of stairs.*

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*[The Coronation Anthem finally reaches its climax and bursts forth in the chorus of Zadok the Priest, as the KING struggles, howling, in the chair, with Willis's men lined up behind him.]*





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