

Examiners' Report Summer 2009

IGCSE

IGCSE Drama (4348)

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4348 Paper 1 Practical Examination

Generally the attainment of candidates was less high than in the previous year. More candidates were awarded marks at the lower end of band two and in band three than had been the case in the previous series. Despite the general attainment being lower, work of excellence was still seen. Half the centres entering candidates for the examination had candidates in the top band. Work was varied in terms of genre and style, from 'traditional' texts such as 'The Tempest' to 'modern' texts such as 'Abide with me'. The messages of the 'serious' play texts and the comedy of the more light hearted texts were communicated to excellent effect at times.

Although there were more candidates being entered for the devised option this year than had been the case in the previous series, the majority of candidates still took the scripted option. Some of the performances seen were a little brief this year, not allowing candidates enough opportunities to develop roles. For the first time some candidates were entered for the performance support option in this examination. It was clear that these candidates were working as an integral part of their groups. It was clear from the work sent that candidates had gained much from their participation in the exam. It is to be hoped that when the specification is no longer available that centres who are entering candidates at the present time will continue to enter candidates with Edexcel in the new 2DR01 specification.

4348 Paper 2 Written Examination

Comments on the IGCSE paper 2009

One general observation is that most students could make more use of stage language e.g. DSL, flats, par can etc. This would make their explanations easier to follow and their task more simple.

Question 1

This question was answered well on the whole with very few candidates being unable to attempt an appropriate response. The best responses went into great detail and offered a sense of analysis and evaluation of the two decisions. Less sophisticated responses focused on relatively insignificant decisions and struggled to make a meaningful response from quite superficial material.

Question 2

Many candidates found little difficulty understanding this question and most managed to make a reasoned response to it. Many students found the bullet points useful and were able to link the use of voice to the role, emotion and status, although some did not always make the connections that clear and relaxed their focus on voice in favour of the other elements.

Question 3

This question was approachable for most candidates. Those that found it challenging either had little information about the play itself in its original performance conditions or had not previously imagined it as a piece of theatre but only as a script. This was not the case in most responses however but stage language is very important in this question and candidates are encouraged to make use of it. Most candidates used the bullet points well and attempted to make connections between them and the main thrust of the question. The best responses described the settings in great detail and carefully explained the intended impact upon the audience.

Question 4

Some respondents to this question did not make it off the page and onto the stage in this question, although most did. A very small amount of respondents found it hard to identify a clear conflict in their plays. Most students were able to make a reasoned attempt at this question. The best answers identified the conflict clearly at the beginning of their answer and where it took place and then went into great detail about how it would be realised on stage. Again, greater use of stage language would have been welcome here.

Grade Boundaries

IGCSE Drama 4348 Paper 1 - Practical Examination

Grade	Max Mark	*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Lower Limit	50	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	0

IGCSE Drama 4348 Paper 2 - Written Examination

Grade	Max Mark	*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Lower Limit	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	0

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Grade	Max Mark	*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Lower Limit	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	0

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