

# Tasmanian Secondary Assessment Board

## Tasmanian Certificate of Education

### External Assessment

1998

**SD806 SPEECH AND DRAMA**

**Time: Two Hours**

On the basis of your performance in this examination, the examiners will provide a rating of A, B, C or D on each of the following criteria taken from the syllabus statement:

**Criterion 9** Analyse and evaluate live theatre performances.

**Criterion 10** Reflect, in writing, on practical tasks and the process of creating and presenting theatrical projects.

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Pages: 4  
Sections: 2

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## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

The paper is divided into two sections.

Answer **ONE** question from **SECTION A** and **ONE** question from **SECTION B**.

Candidates are advised to check that **ALL** parts of the selected questions are answered.

Candidates are reminded that English expression, spelling, neatness and legibility of writing may be taken into account in the rating of scripts.

**USE A SEPARATE BOOK FOR EACH QUESTION**

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<b>SECTION A</b>
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This section assesses **Criterion 9**.

Answer **ONE** question only.

Your answer should refer to the critical appraisal of live theatre.  
At least **THREE PERFORMANCES** should be discussed in your answer.

### Question 1

One function of the theatre is to provoke audience members into **thought** and **feeling**; another is to **amuse** and **delight** them.

Discuss the **particular features** of **three** live theatre productions you have seen this year which support **either** or **both** of these functions of theatrical performance.

### Question 2

By identifying particular aspects of **three** live theatre productions you have seen this year, show how they have extended your **knowledge of stagecraft** and appreciation of the **issues** or **themes** handled by the playwright.

### Question 3

How do **you** judge the effectiveness of a play in performance? By detailed discussion of **three** live theatre productions you have seen this year comment on the particular factors which you believe led to the success (or otherwise) of these presentations.

<b>SECTION B</b>
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This section assesses **Criterion 10**.

Your answer should refer to **Scripted Drama** or **Experimental Theatre** Study.

Answer **ONE** question from this section based on your area of study.

**EITHER**

**SCRIPTED DRAMA**

**Question 4**

In preparing his or her role the actor should take into account what the playwright reveals about the character's:

- physical appearance
- status and background
- attitude towards other characters
- ways of dealing with crisis and conflict
- relationship to the theme and dramatic action of the play.

By considering these factors discuss the development of **one major** and **one minor** character in your production.

**Question 5**

'Climax' is derived from the Greek word meaning 'ladder'. For a skilled dramatist, climax is not merely a device for sustaining the interest of the audience but is the essential way of constructing the particular scene. Discuss the use of climax in **one** or **more** scenes from the play you have studied and show how your group used it to **reveal character** and to highlight the **theme(s) of the play**.

**Question 6**

Drama has been defined as a mirror which reflects society.

What does the play you have studied tell us about the **social** and **political** situation and/or **theatrical conventions** at the time it was written?

What **issues** are highlighted by the playwright and how **relevant** is the theatrical realisation of these to a present day audience?

**OR**

## **EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE**

### **Question 7**

Discuss the significance of **four of the following** to the success (or otherwise) of your experimental theatre production:

- the material used
- structure of the presentation
- acting space
- characterisation
- theatrical effects
- target audience.

### **Question 8**

The creation of an experimental theatre piece invariably poses a set of production problems which are quite different from those encountered in the presentation of an established text.

What were the **particular problems** to be overcome in your production and how were they resolved?

### **Question 9**

By referring to your experimental theatre production, discuss how your group used:

- space
- movement
- dialogue
- light
- sound
- costume
- setting

to achieve dramatic impact and to present the 'message' to the audience.