



MATIGO EXAMINATIONS BOARD

MARKING GUIDE

QN 1.

a) What events lead to this scene? (08 marks)

After helping Richard ascend to the throne as king, Buckingham becomes his right hand man. When Richard asks Buckingham to help him get rid of his enemies, like Grey and Rivers, the latter is hesitant. This makes Richard get suspicious of Buckingham's loyalty. They soon fall out and Richard has Buckingham arrested. He intends to kill him.

b) Describe the character of Buckingham, as portrayed in the extract. (08 marks)
Buckingham is portrayed as being:

- Remorseful
- Stoical: ready to die for his mistakes
- Emotionally strong
- Intelligent

c) What thematic aspects are portrayed in the extract? (08 marks)

The extract portrays themes such as:

- Betrayal
- Revenge
- Poetic justice
- Injustice

d) Explain the significance of this extract to the rest of the text. (10 marks)

Plot development: marks the start of Richard's fall, with the killing of his right hand man.

Thematic portrayal: reveals themes such as: betrayal and justice

Character development: develops the character of Buckingham as being stoical, and Richard as ruthless.

Mood and atmosphere: sets the tone of the play as tense, uncertain and evil.

Total = 34 marks

QN 2.**a) Place the extract in its context.****(10 marks)**

Before the extract, King John takes the crown from his nephew Arthur, who has a stronger claim to the throne. He however struggles with his own legitimacy, and faces opposition from the French and the Church. Arthur is supported by the French and English nobles. King John's mother, Queen Eleanor, tries to persuade Arthur to abandon his claim but he refuses. After the extract, Arthur tries to persuade Hubert to spare his life and Hubert ultimately decides to disobey the king's orders. King John later learns that Arthur has escaped and believes him to be dead.

b) Describe the relationship between King Philip and Constance, as portrayed in the extract.**(08 marks)**

Overall, their relationship in this extract is one of uneasy alliance, with both characters trying to navigate their shared goal of supporting Arthur's claim while protecting their own interests.

c) How has the playwright achieved mood and atmosphere in the extract? (08 marks)

Setting: the scene takes place in a dark, private chamber, creating an intimate and ominous atmosphere.

Language: the language creates a sense of urgency and danger

Character interactions: the interactions between King Philip, Constance and Pandolph create a sense of unease.

Foreshadowing: the scene hints at the possibility of Arthur's death, creating a sense of impending doom

Tone: the tone is ominous, forboding and intense, creating a sense of unease.

d) Explain the significance of the extract to the development of themes in the play.**(08 marks)**

The extract is important in the development of the play in the following ways:

- It is a turning point as Arthur's fate is decided and the consequences of King John's actions become clear.
- it exposes King John's villainy
- it explores the themes of power, morality, loyalty
- it drives the plot forward, setting in motion the events that lead to King John's downfall
- it reveals the character of King John and Arthur

Total = 34 marks

QN 3.

Describe the relationship between Torvald and Nora and show its significance to the thematic development of the play *A Doll's House*. (33 marks)

The relationship between Torvald and Nora in the play develops several key themes, including:

- oppression and control: Torvald's patronizing and controlling behaviour towards Nora highlights the oppressive nature of their relationship and society's expectations of women.
- Appearance vs Reality: the façade of their seemingly perfect marriage contrasts with the reality of Nora's unhappiness and Torvald's selfishness.
- Identity and self-discovery: Nora's growing awareness of her own desires and needs, suppressed by Torvald's dominance.
- Marriage and relationships: the play critiques the societal expectations of marriage and relationships, particularly the lack of equality and mutual respect in Torvald and Nora's relationship.
- Economic dependence: Nora's dependence on Torvald for financial support highlights the economic constraints faced by women during that era.
- Patriarchal society: Torvald's attitude towards Nora reflects the patriarchal society's view of women as inferior and subordinate to men.
- Deception and secrecy: The secrets and lies in their relationship, particularly Nora's hidden debt, illustrate the destructive nature of deception and secrecy.
- Personal growth and independence: Nora's ultimate decision to leave Torvald and forge her own path symbolizes the theme of personal growth and independence.

NB: Candidates should discuss with clear illustrations from the text.

Mark as a whole = 33 marks

QN 4.

How effectively does Ibsen use dramatic irony in the play *A Doll's House*? (33 marks)

Dramatic irony is effectively used in the play through:

- Nora's secret debt: the audience knows about it while Torvald isn't aware, creating tension and irony.
- Torvald's patronizing behaviour: the audience sees Torvald's condescending attitude towards Nora, while he believes he is being loving and supportive, highlighting ignorance.
- Nora's growing independence: as Nora begins to assert herself, the audience recognizes her growth, while Torvald remains oblivious to the changes in his wife.
- Krogstad's blackmail: the audience knows Krogstad's true intentions, while Torvald and Nora are unaware, creating suspense and irony.
- Torvald's letter: when Torvald writes a letter firing Krogstad, the audience knows it will lead to Nora's downfall, while Torvald believes he is solving the problem.
- Nora's final decision: the audience anticipates Nora's eventual departure, while Torvald is blindsided by her leaving, emphasizing the dramatic irony.

Significance of dramatic irony:

- Creates suspense and tension
- Highlights character flaws and ignorance
- Emphasizes the gap between appearance and reality
- Illustrates the consequences characters' actions
- Engages the audience and encourages empathy

NB: The candidates should discuss with clear illustrations from the text.

Mark as a whole = 33 marks

QN 5.

“A naïve and snobbish woman who does not deserve our sympathy.” How is this a fair description of Ranevsky in light of what happens in the play *The Cherry Orchard*?

(33 marks)

In the play, Ranevsky is portrayed as a naïve and snobbish woman through:

- Detachment from reality: she refuses to accept the financial reality of her situation, clinging to her aristocratic past and ignoring the impending loss of her estate.
- Lack of self-awareness: she fails to recognize her own flaws and weaknesses, blaming others for her problems.
- Snobbish attitude: she looks down on those she considers inferior, like Lopakhin, and prioritizes her social status over practical solutions.
- Romantic illusions: she clings to romantic notions of her past and her family's history, rather than facing the present.
- Financial irresponsibility: she recklessly spends money, ignoring the consequences, and expects others to solve her financial problems.
- Resistance to change: she is unwilling to adapt to the changing world around her, refusing to consider innovative ideas or new perspectives.
- Overemphasis on appearances: she prioritizes maintaining a façade of wealth and status over actual financial stability.
- Lack of empathy: she shows little understanding or compassion for those around her, including her daughter and the struggling Lopakhi.

Ranevsky's naïve and snobbish nature serves to:

- Illustrate the decline of the aristocracy
- Highlight the consequences of refusing to adapt to change
- Explore the tensions between old money and new wealth
- Create a sense of tragic inevitability, as her flaws contribute to her downfall.

NB: Candidates should discuss with clear illustrations from the text.

Mark as a whole = 33 marks

QN 6.

Examine the portrayal of the theme of self-centredness in the play *The Cherry Orchard*.

(33 marks)

The theme of self-centredness in the play is portrayed through:

- Ranevsky's narcissism: her excessive focus on her own emotions, desires, and social status, while ignoring the needs and concerns of others.

- Lopakhin's self-interest: his primary motivation is to acquire wealth and status, even if it means exploiting others, like Ranevsky.
- Gayev's nostalgia: his fixation on the past and his own memories, rather than engaging with the present or considering others' futures.
- Anya's indecisiveness: her inability to make decisions or take action, prioritizing her own emotional comfort over the needs of others.
- Varya's resentment: her bitterness and jealousy towards Ranevsky and Lopakhin, stemming from her own unfulfilled desires and sense of entitlement.
- Characters' lack of empathy: the play highlights how characters prioritize their own feelings and interests over the well-being of others.
- Self-deception: many characters deceive themselves about their circumstances, motivations, and relationships, illustrating self-centredness.
- Failure to listen and understand: characters often interrupt, ignore, or dismiss each other's perspectives, demonstrating self-centredness.

The portrayal of self-centredness helps to:

- Critique the aristocracy's excesses and superficiality
- Highlight the consequences of prioritizing individual desires over collective well-being
- Explore the human tendency to prioritize one's own needs and emotions
- Create a sense of tragic inevitability, as self-centredness contributes to the characters' downfalls.

NB: Candidates should discuss with clear illustrations from the text.

Mark as a whole = 33 marks

QN 7.**Examine the dramatic significance of the gods in the play *Oedipus the King*.****(33 marks)**

The gods in the play hold dramatic significance in the following aspects:

- Fate and destiny: the gods embody the concept of fate, underscoring the inevitability of Oedipus' downfall.
- Divine justice: they represent justice, punishing Oedipus for his unknowing crimes and restoring balance.
- Irony and tragedy: the gods' knowledge and Oedipus' ignorance create dramatic irony, heightening the tragedy.
- Character development: Oedipus' interactions with the gods reveal his hubris, stubbornness, and ultimate humility.
- Thematic resonance: the gods' presence emphasises themes like fate, free will, and the human condition.
- Plot advancement: the gods' prophecies and interventions drive the plot forward, creating tension and suspense.
- Symbolism: they symbolize the unknowable, the divine, and the forces beyond human control.
- Chorus' commentary: the chorus, often speaking on behalf of the gods, provides context, interpretation, and emotional resonance.

The use of the gods in the play helps to achieve the following:

- Creates a sense of cosmic order and fate
- Highlights human limitations and vulnerability
- Adds depth, complexity, and meaning to the story.
- Underscores the tragedy of Oedipus' situation
- Their presence elevates the play from a mere mortal story to a grand, universal exploration of human existence.

NB: Candidates should discuss with clear illustrations from the text.

Mark as a whole = 33 marks

QN 8.**How satisfactory is the ending of the play *Oedipus the King*?****(33 marks)**

The ending of the play is satisfactory in several ways:

- Emotional resolution: Oedipus' downfall and acceptance of his fate provide a sense of emotional closure.
- Justice served: the gods' punishment of Oedipus for his unknowing crimes restores balance and justice.
- Thematic completion: the ending underscores the play's themes of fate, hubris, and the human condition.
- Character arc: Oedipus' transformation from pride to humility and self-awareness is complete.
- Dramatic unity: the ending ties together the play's events and plot threads.

However, some aspects of the play's ending may be seen as unsatisfactory:

- Abruptness: the ending feels rushed, with Oedipus' blinding and exile happening quickly.
- Lack of closure for secondary characters: the fates of characters like Jocasta, Creon, and Antigone are not fully resolved.
- Oedipus' suffering: some may find Oedipus' punishment too harsh or unending.
- Unanswered questions: some questions, like the gods' motivations and the future of Thebes, remain unanswered.

NB: The candidates should discuss with clear illustrations from the text.

Mark as a whole = 33 marks

QN 9.

Justify the view that mankind will never accept its Saints, as depicted in the play *Saint Joan*. (33 marks)

The view that mankind will never accept its saints, as depicted in the play, holds some truth:

- Historical evidence: throughout history, many saints and visionaries have faced rejection, persecution or martyrdom. This is what happens to St Joan.
- Fear of the unknown: people often fear or reject those who challenge conventional norms, beliefs or authority. St Joan is rejected for her views.
- Inconvenient truths: saints may speak uncomfortable truths, making them unpopular or threatening to those in power. St Joan is ostracised for her truthfulness.
- Human nature: people may be resistant to change, skeptical of claims of divine inspiration or envious of those perceived as holy. St Joan is disliked for her divine inspiration.

The play highlights the complexities and challenges faced by those perceived as saints or visionaries, but also shows that acceptance and recognition can occur, even if posthumously.

NB: Candidates should discuss with clear illustrations from the text.

Mark as a whole = 33 marks

QN 10.

How does Saint Joan's portrayal lead to the development of the plot of the play *Saint Joan*? (33 marks)

St Joan's portrayal leads to the development of the play in several ways:

- Characterisation: Shaw's portrayal of Joan as a strong-willed, determined, and divinely-inspired individual drives the plot and character interactions.
- Conflict and tension: Joan's unwavering convictions and actions create conflict with those around her, propelling the story forward.
- Themes and ideas: Joan's character explores themes of faith, morality, patriotism, and the challenges of being a woman in a male-dominated society.
- Historical context: Shaw's portrayal of Joan is set against the backdrop of the Hundred Years' War, adding depth and complexity to the story.
- Symbolism and metaphor: Joan's character serves as a symbol for the power of faith, the dangers of blind nationalism, and the struggle for individual identity.
- Character relationships: Joan's interactions with other characters, like Charles, Dunois, and Cauchon, reveal their motivations and personalities.
- Plot twists and turns: Joan's actions and decisions lead to unexpected events, keeping the audience engaged.
- Emotional resonance: Shaw's portrayal of Joan creates an emotional connection with the audience, making her ultimate fate both poignant and thought-provoking.

NB: Candidates should discuss with clear illustrations from the text.

Mark as a whole = 33 marks

QN 11.

How does Congreve advocate for the freedom of women in marriage in the play, *The Way of the World*? (33 marks)

In the play, Congreve advocates for the freedom of women in marriage through:

- Mirabell's progressive views: Mirabell, the male protagonist, believes in equal partnership and respect in marriage, challenging traditional patriarchal norms.
- Millamant's independence: Millamant, the female protagonist, is depicted as strong-willed, intelligent, and determined to maintain her autonomy in marriage.
- Critique of patriarchal society: the play satirizes the societal conventions that restrict women's choices and agency in marriage.
- Subversion of traditional gender roles: Congreve portrays men as emotional and vulnerable, while women are shown as rational and strong.
- Millamant's contract: Millamant's marriage contract with Mirabell, which ensures her freedom and equality, is a powerful statement on women's rights.
- Exposure of marital hypocrisy: the play reveals the hypocrisy and double standards in marriage, highlighting the need for honesty and mutual respect.
- Empowerment through wit and intelligence: Millamant's wit and intelligence are portrayed as essential qualities for navigating the complexities of marriage and society.
- Rejection of oppressive social norms: the play rejects the societal pressure to conform to traditional gender roles and expectations.

- The play challenges the patriarchal norms of the time and offers a progressive vision of relationships.

NB: Candidates should discuss with clear illustrations from the text.

Mark as a whole = 33 marks

QN 12.

“The role of Literature is to delight and instruct.” Justify this assertion with close reference to the play *The Way of the World*. (33 marks)

The play proves this assertion in several ways:

Delight:

- Wit and humour: the play’s clever dialogue, satire, and comedic elements entertain and delight the audience.
- Engaging characters: well-crafted characters like Mirabell, Millamant, and Fainall captivate the audience’s attention.
- Intricate plot: the play’s complex plot. With its twists and turns, keeps the audience engaged and interested.

Instruct:

- Social commentary: the play critiques societal norms, highlighting issues like gender roles, class, and morality.
- Moral lessons: through character development and plot progression, the play teaches lessons about honesty, integrity and relationships.
- Insights into human nature: the play offers profound insights into human behaviour, motivations and emotions.
- Satire and critique: the play uses satire to expose flaws in society, encouraging critical thinking and reflection.
- Character growth and development: the play shows how characters learn and grow, demonstrating the potential for personal development and transformation.

NB: Candidates should discuss with clear illustrations from the text.

Mark as a whole = 33 marks

QN 13.

Examine the theme of marriage as portrayed in the play *The Country Wife*. (33 marks)

The theme of marriage is portrayed in the play in different ways:

- Social convenience: marriage is depicted as a means to secure social status, wealth, and convenience, rather than love or companionship.
- Deception and infidelity: characters engage in extramarital affairs, highlighting the hypocrisy and dishonesty that can exist in marriage.
- Restrictions on women: the play critiques the societal constraints placed on women in marriage, particularly in terms of their desires, autonomy, and agency.
- Marital dynamics: the relationships between characters like Pinchwife and Margery, and Horner and his ‘wives’, showcase the power struggles and games in marriage.
- Satire of societal norms: the play uses satire to expose the flaws and absurdities in the societal expectations surrounding marriage.

- Commodification of women: women are portrayed as objects to be won, used and discarded, highlighting the transactional nature of marriage.
- Lack of emotional connection: many marriages in the play are devoid of emotional intimacy, love, or genuine connection.
- Subversion of expectations: the play challenges conventional expectations of marriage, presenting unconventional relationships and scenarios.
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NB: Candidates should discuss with clear illustrations from the text.

Mark as a whole = 33 marks

QN 14.

How relevant is the play *The Country Wife* in our contemporary times? (33 marks)

The play remains relevant to our contemporary times in several ways:

- Gender roles, dynamics and societal expectations
- Sexism and misogyny
- Marital relationships and infidelity
- Hypocrisy and double standards
- Feminism and women's rights
- Social class and status
- Satire and social commentary
- Timeless human nature: human flaws, desires and weaknesses.

NB: Candidates should relate what happens in the play with illustrations from their society.

Mark as a whole = 33 marks

QN 15.

How relevant is the title *Kongi's Harvest* to the play? (33 marks)

The title is relevant to the play because it conveys several themes and ideas:

- Kongi's power and control: the title emphasizes Kongi's dominance and control over the kingdom, highlighting his authoritarian rule.
- Harvest as a symbol of abundance and prosperity: the word 'harvest' implies a time of plenty, but in the play, it is ironic, as the kingdom suffers under Kogi's tyranny.
- Reaping what you sow: the title suggests that Kongi's actions will have consequences and he will reap what he has sown, which is a central theme of the play.
- Cycles of time and change: 'harvest' implies a cycle of growth, decay and renewal, reflecting the play's exploration of the cyclical nature of time, power and human experience.
- African culture and tradition: the use of 'harvest' as a metaphor is rooted in African culture and tradition, emphasizing the play's exploration of African identity and post-colonial themes.
- Irony and contradiction: the title's juxtaposition of 'Kongi' (a symbol of oppression) with 'harvest' (a symbol of abundance) highlights the play's use of irony and contradiction to critique Kongi's regime.

NB: Candidates should discuss with clear illustrations from the text.

Mark as a whole = 33 marks

QN 16.

Examine how Soyinka uses Danlola to develop the plot of the play *Kongi's Harvest*.

(33 marks)

Danlola is used to develop the plot of the play in several ways:

- Foils Kongi's tyranny: his character serves as a foil to Kongi's authoritarian rule, highlighting the latter's cruelty and oppression.
- Embodies traditional values: Danlola represents traditional Yoruba values and customs, contrasting with Kongi's modernizing and oppressive policies.
- Catalyst for conflict: Danlola's resistance to Kongi's demands sparks conflict, driving the plot forward and exploring themes of power, culture, and identity.
- Symbol of hope and resilience: Danlola's determination and courage offer hope for the oppressed people, symbolizing the resilience of traditional culture and values.
- Contrast to Segi's modernity: Danlola's traditionalism contrasts with Segi's modernity, highlighting the tensions between old and new, and the challenges of cultural transition.
- Reveals Kongi's weaknesses: Danlola's interactions with Kongi expose the latter's vulnerabilities, revealing the cracks in his authoritarian façade.
- Advances the plot's climax: Danlola's actions contribute to the play's climax, as his resistance and ultimate sacrifice lead to Kongi's downfall.

NB: Candidates should discuss with clear illustration from the text.

Mark as a whole = 33 marks

QN 17.

"The play *The Snake Farmers* is a satire on African leaders and the donor community."

Examine the truth of this statement with reference to the play.

(33 marks)

The play is a satire on African leaders and the donor community in several ways:

African leaders:

- Corruption and greed: leaders are portrayed as corrupt and greedy, using their power for personal gain, eg; Sekadde and Mzee Opobo.
- Lack of accountability: the leaders are shown to be unaccountable to their people, prioritizing their own interests over the nation's needs.
- Dependence on foreign aid: the play critiques African leaders' reliance on foreign aid, highlighting their inability to self-sustain and develop their own nations.

Donor community:

- Paternalism and neo-colonialism: the play satirizes the donor community's patronizing attitude towards African nations, echoing colonial-era dynamics.
- Conditional aid: the donors' conditional aid is portrayed as a tool for exerting control over African nations, undermining their sovereignty.
- Self-interest: the play suggests that donors prioritize their own interests over the actual needs of African nations, perpetuating a cycle of dependence.

The satirical techniques include:

- Exaggeration and absurdity: the idea of farming snakes
- Irony and contradiction:

- Caricatures and stereotypes

NB: The candidates should discuss with clear illustrations from the text.

Mark as a whole = 33 marks

QN 18.

Discuss the portrayal of Ssekadde and show how he develops the plot of the play *The Snake Farmers*. (33 marks)

The portrayal of Sekadde develops the plot in several ways:

- As the leader of the village, he takes the responsibility to mobilize the residents against the snakes
- His leadership skills are vital in ensuring unity in the time of crisis
- He is able to rally other elders and the villagers to form task forces that deal with the snake epidemic, even without support from the central government.
- When donors intervene, they entrust him with the campaign to fight the snakes.
- His sense of humour easily attracts people to him, making it easy to trust him with the resources to fight the snakes.
- His affinity to greed makes him hatch the idea of farming snakes to prolong the epidemic for material gain
- He clearly symbolizes corruption in leadership as he diverts most of the resources donated by the Europeans.

NB: Candidates should discuss with clear illustrations from the text.

Mark as a whole = 33 marks

QN 19.

“Without Kyeyune, the play *The Floods* would be an incomplete piece of Literature.” How true is this statement? Support your answer with ample illustration from the play. (33 marks)

Kyeyune’s importance in the play can be seen in several ways:

- Symbolism: he is the voice of tradition, culture and the past.
- Contrast to modernity: his character contrasts the modernizing influences in the play
- Wisdom and insight: his wisdom and insight offer a unique perspective on the events unfolding.
- Connection to the land and ancestors: emphasizes the importance of connection to the land, ancestors and cultural roots.
- Catalyst for change: his words and actions inspire change and growth in other characters, driving the [plot forward.
- Representation of the marginalised: he represents the marginalized and oppressed, giving voice to their struggles and concerns.
- Spiritual significance: his character may hold spiritual significance, representing a connection to the divine or supernatural forces.
- Foils other characters: he serves a foil to other characters such as Dyogo, the headman.

NB: Candidates should discuss with clear illustration from the text.

Mark as a whole = 33 marks

QN 20.

Examine Rugunda’s portrayal of Nankya in the play *The Floods*. (33 marks)

Rugunda's portrayal of Nankya in the play can be examined through several aspects:

- Strong-willed and dynasty: she is depicted as a strong-willed and determined individual, challenging societal norms and expectations.
- Independent and self-reliant: she is shown as independent and self-reliant, making her own decisions and taking control of her life.
- Emotional depth and complexity: she exhibits emotional depth and complexity, revealing vulnerability and sensitivity.
- Symbol of change and progress: she represents change and progress, embodying the modernizing influences that challenge traditional values.
- Contrast to traditional roles: her character contrasts with traditional female roles, highlighting the limitations and constraints placed on women.
- Relationships with other characters: her interactions with other characters reveal her personality and values
- Character growth and development: throughout the play, she undergoes significant growth and development, in response to the challenges and experiences.

NB: Candidates should discuss with clear illustrations from the text.

Mark as a whole = 33 marks

END