# SMARTWIZ

#### **GRADE 12 DRAMATIC ARTS EXAM**

MARKS: 100	MARKS	
TIME: 2 HOURS		
SCHOOL		
CLASS (eg. 4A)		
SURNAME		
NAME		

### **Instructions for Learners:**

- Read all instructions carefully before you begin the exam.
- Write your full name and student number clearly on the answer sheet/book.
- Answer all questions unless otherwise instructed.
- Show all your work/calculations where necessary.
- Write neatly and clearly.
- Use only a blue or black pen. Do not use correction fluid or tape.
- Electronic devices (calculators, cell phones, etc.) are not allowed unless explicitly permitted.
- Raise your hand if you have any questions.
- Do not talk to other learners during the exam.
- Any form of dishonesty will result in immediate disqualification from the exam.

This exam consists of Five pages, including the cover page.

# **SECTION A: IDENTIFY AND NAME (15 marks)**

Look at the descriptions and write the correct term from the list below. (1 mark each)

#### Terms to choose from:

Improvisation, Stage Manager, Projection, Monologue, Arena Stage, Flat, Beat, Blackout, Prologue, Antagonist, Proscenium, House Lights, Dress Parade, Climax, Cue

- 1. A sudden and complete fade to darkness on stage.
- 2. A speech delivered by one character without interruption.
- 3. The person responsible for coordinating all aspects of the production during performances.
- 4. Unscripted performance created in the moment.
- 5. An early scene or speech that introduces the story.
- 6. A stage surrounded by the audience on all sides.
- 7. The most intense moment of the play's plot.
- 8. A directional command used to trigger a technical or performance action.
- 9. A rigid, lightweight piece of scenery used to build walls or backdrops.
- 10. Loudness and clarity of a voice on stage.
- 11. The opposing force to the main character.
- 12. A short pause that changes the rhythm or emotional shift in a scene.
- 13. The frame-like structure separating the audience from the stage in traditional theatre.
- 14. Lights that illuminate the audience area before and after a performance.
- 15. A technical rehearsal where actors wear full costumes under stage lighting.

# **SECTION B: VISUAL INTERPRETATION (15 marks)**

### Examine the diagram below and answer the questions that follow.

(Insert a labelled stage diagram: "Proscenium stage" with areas marked: downstage right (DR), upstage left (UL), center stage (CS), wings, apron, cyclorama)

left (U	L), center stage (CS), wings, apron, cyclorama)	
1. 2	What is the name of the acting area closest to the audience?	(1 mark)
3.	What is the purpose of the <b>wings</b> in a theatre? (2 marks)	•)
4.	Explain how the <b>cyclorama</b> is used in stagecraft. (2 marks)	
5.	Label one potential entrance point and explain how it supports scene transition	ons. (2 marks)

6.	A director wants to create intimacy. Which part of the stage should the actor use? Why? (2 mark
7.	Describe the advantage of a <b>proscenium arch</b> stage for elaborate set designs. (2 marks)
8.	Name one challenge actors face when performing in the <b>upstage corners</b> . (1 mark)
Answ	SECTION C: CONCEPT EXPLORATION (20 marks)  er in full sentences. (5 marks each)  What are the key responsibilities of a lighting designer, and how do their choices affect audience are represented.
	experience?
2.	Describe the rehearsal process for a new play from first read-through to final dress rehearsal.



# SECTION D: CHARACTER STUDY (20 marks)

Read the character breakdown below and respond to the tasks.

Character:	<b>MARLA</b>
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Age: 35

Occupation: War photojournalist

Personality: Intelligent, guarded, intense

Current situation: Returned home after 10 years abroad, carrying emotional trauma. Scene context: Marla enters her old childhood bedroom and sees everything unchanged.

#### Tasks:

Write 3 stage directions that could accompany Marla's entrance to show her emotional state. (3 marks)
2. Suggest a costume design that reflects her character and experiences. (3 marks)
3. Write 2 lines of inner monologue Marla might say to herself while alone in the room. (4 marks)
4. Suggest a lighting and sound design choice that would intensify the scene's emotion. (4 marks)
5. What acting technique could help the performer portray Marla's trauma realistically? Explain. (6 marks)



# **SECTION E: WRITING FOR PERFORMANCE (30 marks)**

Create a brief performance script for 2–3 characters. It should be around 12–15 lines. Include:

- A clear conflict
- A shift in mood or tone
- At least 1 stage direction
- A strong opening or closing line
- A title and setting

Title: Setting:		
Script:		
		7
	MYST PATHWORKS	

**END OF EXAM** 

**TOTAL: 100 MARKS** 

#### **MEMO**



# **SECTION A: IDENTIFY AND NAME (15 marks)**

### (1 mark each)

- 1. Blackout
- 2. Monologue
- 3. Stage Manager
- 4. Improvisation
- 5. Prologue
- 6. Arena Stage
- 7. Climax
- 8. Cue
- 9. Flat
- 10. Projection
- 11. Antagonist
- 12. Beat
- 13. Proscenium
- 14. House Lights
- 15. Dress Parade

# **SECTION B: VISUAL INTERPRETATION (15 marks)**

- 1. Downstage
- 2. Upstage
- 3. **Wings purpose** Hidden areas used for actor entrances/exits, storing props, or stagehands (2 marks)
- 4. **Cyclorama use** Large backdrop used to project skies or colors; supports lighting effects and mood (2 marks)
- 5. **Entrance point** + **explanation** e.g., Stage Left entrance: allows for surprise entrances, fast transitions (2 marks)
- 6. **Intimacy** Downstage center; closest proximity to audience enhances emotional connection (2 marks)
- 7. **Proscenium advantage** Hides backstage elements, allows for complex scenery changes, better illusion (2 marks)
- 8. **Upstage corner challenge** Harder for audience to see/hear actors; loss of engagement (1 mark)

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# **SECTION C: CONCEPT EXPLORATION (20 marks)**

(5 marks each – award 1 mark per key idea)

- 1. **Lighting Designer** Plans light mood/atmosphere, focuses attention, time of day, symbolic meaning, audience emotion
- 2. Rehearsal Process -
  - Read-through
  - Blocking
  - Character development
  - o Technical rehearsals
  - o Dress rehearsals
- 3. **Sound Effects Symbolism** E.g., thunder for anger, ticking clock for tension, heartbeat to show fear
- 4. **Character Motivation** Influences decisions, adds realism, deepens performance, makes reactions believable



## **SECTION D: CHARACTER STUDY (20 marks)**

1. Stage directions –

Example:

- o (She pauses at the doorway.)
- o (Takes a deep breath and steps in slowly.)
- (Looks around, touching a photo frame gently.)
   (3 marks 1 per direction)
- 2. Costume suggestion
  - o Faded jeans, rugged boots, worn jacket
  - Earth-toned colors; camera bag or scarf
     (3 marks detail, symbolism, practicality)
- 3. Inner monologue lines –

Example:

- o "Ten years... and nothing has changed."
- "How do I even begin to fit back in?"(2 marks each = 4 marks)
- 4. Lighting/Sound
  - o Lighting: soft spotlight or dim yellow hue for nostalgia
  - Sound: soft ambient room tone or subtle wind for memory effect (2 marks each = 4 marks)
- 5. Acting technique
  - o Stanislavski's emotional memory, method acting, or Meisner
  - Emphasis on drawing from personal experience to show inner turmoil (6 marks – 3 for naming & technique, 3 for explanation)



# **SECTION E: WRITING FOR PERFORMANCE (30 marks)**

Mark using the following criteria:

Criteria	Marks
Clear conflict	6
Shift in tone/mood	6
Use of stage direction	4
Strong opening/closing line	4
Clear setting	4
Structure, coherence & creativity	6

Full marks awarded for originality, dramatic progression, and format adherence.

**▼** TOTAL MARKS: 100

