

# SMARTWIZ

## GRADE11 DRAMATIC ARTS EXAM

**MARKS: 100**

**TIME: 2 HOURS**

**SCHOOL** \_\_\_\_\_

**CLASS (eg. 4A)** \_\_\_\_\_

**SURNAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

MARKS	
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### 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 cheating will result in immediate disqualification from the exam.

**This exam consists of five pages, including the cover page.**

**SECTION A: THEATRE HISTORY & THEORY (20 marks)**

**QUESTION 1**

1.1 Define the following terms:

a) *Monologue*

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b) *Stage directions*

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c) *Improvisation*

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d) *Symbolism in theatre*



(4 × 2 = 8)

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1.2 Identify TWO differences between *Classical Greek Theatre* and *Elizabethan Theatre*.

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(4)

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1.3 Explain the importance of *audience engagement* in a theatrical performance.

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(4)

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1.4 Briefly describe how *costumes* can influence the audience's understanding of a character.

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(4)

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## SECTION B: SOUTH AFRICAN DRAMA (25 marks)

### QUESTION 2

2.1 What is *Gqom theatre* and how does it reflect contemporary South African culture?

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(5)

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2.2 Describe how theatre has been used as a tool for social change in South Africa post-1994.

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(5)

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2.3 Choose a South African drama performance or play you have studied or seen. Discuss:

a) The main conflict in the story

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b) How the director used space on stage to enhance the story

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c) The impact the performance had on you as an audience member

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(3 × 3 = 9)

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2.4 Name TWO South African theatre festivals and explain their significance.

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(6)

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**SECTION C: PERFORMANCE & TECHNIQUES (30 marks)**

**QUESTION 3**

3.1 Explain the term *physical theatre* and give an example of when it might be used.

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(4)

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3.2 List FOUR ways an actor can use *facial expressions* to communicate a character’s feelings.

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(4)

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3.3 What are the benefits of *ensemble acting* in theatre productions?

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(4)

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3.4 Describe how *props* can support storytelling in a play.

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(4)

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3.5 Outline the steps an actor should take to prepare for a stage fight scene safely.

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(6)

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3.6 Discuss the role of *improvisation* in developing a character.

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(8)

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## SECTION D: PRODUCTION ELEMENTS (25 marks)

### QUESTION 4

4.1 Describe the function of the following technical elements:

a) *Backdrop*

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b) *Stage lighting*

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c) *Sound effects*

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d) *Set designer*

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(4 × 2 = 8)

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4.2 Explain why *rehearsal discipline* is important in theatre productions.

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(4)

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4.3 What challenges might a director face when working with a large cast, and how can these be managed?

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(6)

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4.4 Discuss the importance of *feedback* during the rehearsal process.

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(7)

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**END OF PAPER**

**Total : 100**

## MEMO

# SECTION A: THEATRE HISTORY & THEORY (20 marks)

### 1.1 Definitions

a) *Monologue*

A long speech by one actor in a play or performance, expressing thoughts aloud.

b) *Stage directions*

Instructions in the script that tell actors where to move or how to behave on stage.

c) *Improvisation*

Creating and performing spontaneously without a script.

d) *Symbolism in theatre*

Use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities beyond their literal meaning.

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### 1.2 Differences between Classical Greek Theatre and Elizabethan Theatre

- Greek theatre used a chorus, Elizabethan did not.
  - Greek theatres were open-air with amphitheatres; Elizabethan theatres were partly enclosed.
  - Greek plays focused on fate and gods; Elizabethan plays explored individualism and human nature.
  - Greek actors wore masks; Elizabethan actors did not necessarily use masks.
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### 1.3 Importance of audience engagement

- Keeps audience interested and attentive.
  - Enhances emotional connection with characters and story.
  - Encourages empathy and reflection.
  - Can influence the energy and pacing of the performance.
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### 1.4 How costumes influence audience understanding

- Indicate time period or setting.
  - Reflect a character's personality, status, or mood.
  - Help distinguish characters and their relationships.
  - Can symbolize character development.
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## SECTION B: SOUTH AFRICAN DRAMA (25 marks)

### 2.1 Gqom theatre

- A contemporary theatre style inspired by the gqom music genre from Durban.
  - Incorporates energetic dance, music, and youth culture.
  - Reflects modern urban experiences and social realities in South Africa.
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### 2.2 Theatre as social change post-1994

- Raises awareness of social issues like HIV/AIDS, inequality.
  - Provides a platform for diverse voices and stories.
  - Encourages community dialogue and healing.
  - Promotes education through drama workshops and community theatre.
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### 2.3 South African play analysis

(Example answers based on known plays)

- a) Main conflict: Struggle against apartheid oppression.
  - b) Director's use of space: Used levels and distances to show power dynamics.
  - c) Impact: Made the audience feel empathy and inspired action.
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### 2.4 South African theatre festivals

- *National Arts Festival* in Grahamstown: Celebrates diverse art forms, promotes local and international artists.
  - *Joy of Jazz Festival*: Features performances blending theatre and music; promotes cultural heritage.
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## SECTION C: PERFORMANCE & TECHNIQUES (30 marks)

### 3.1 Physical theatre

- Theatre style that uses physical movement and body language as the primary means of storytelling.
  - Example: Dance-theatre or mime performances.
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### 3.2 Facial expressions to show feelings

- Smiling to show happiness.
  - Frowning to show sadness or confusion.
  - Raised eyebrows to show surprise.
  - Narrowed eyes to show anger or suspicion.
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### 3.3 Benefits of ensemble acting

- Builds strong group chemistry.
  - Enhances timing and rhythm in performances.
  - Creates a cohesive storytelling experience.
  - Supports collaboration and trust among actors.
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### 3.4 Props supporting storytelling

- Provide context or realism.
  - Help actors express character traits or emotions.
  - Can symbolize themes or ideas.
  - Assist in advancing the plot.
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### 3.5 Preparing for stage fight safely

- Learn choreography thoroughly.
  - Practice with partners slowly and carefully.
  - Use safe props and techniques.
  - Communicate clearly with fellow actors.
  - Follow safety instructions from fight director.
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### 3.6 Role of improvisation in character development

- Helps explore different aspects of a character's personality.
  - Encourages spontaneity and authentic reactions.
  - Develops deeper understanding and backstory.
  - Builds confidence in portraying the character.
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## SECTION D: PRODUCTION ELEMENTS (25 marks)

## 4.1 Functions

### a) *Backdrop*

Creates visual setting and mood behind the actors.

### b) *Stage lighting*

Highlights action, creates atmosphere, indicates time/place.

### c) *Sound effects*

Adds realism or mood through ambient noises or special effects.

### d) *Set designer*

Plans and creates physical surroundings on stage.

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## 4.2 Importance of rehearsal discipline

- Ensures efficient use of rehearsal time.
  - Builds professionalism and respect.
  - Helps maintain focus and avoid accidents.
  - Leads to better performances.
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## 4.3 Challenges with large cast & management

- Difficulty coordinating schedules and lines.
  - Maintaining focus and discipline.
  - Managing conflicts or egos.
  - Use assistant directors, clear communication, and smaller group rehearsals.
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## 4.4 Importance of feedback

- Helps actors improve performances.
- Provides different perspectives.
- Encourages growth and learning.
- Builds trust and teamwork.
- Identifies problems early.

**TOTAL : 100**