

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: DRAMATIC FORMS & GENRES (20 marks)

QUESTION 1

1.1 Define the following theatrical genres:

a) *Absurdist Theatre*

b) *Melodrama*

c) *Farce*

d) *Documentary Theatre*



(4 × 2 = 8)

1.2 Explain TWO characteristics of *Physical Theatre*.

(4)

1.3 How does *breaking the fourth wall* affect the audience's experience?

(4)

1.4 Describe the role of *narrator* in a theatrical production.

(4)

SECTION B: SOUTH AFRICAN THEATRE & CULTURE (25 marks)

QUESTION 2

2.1 Explain the significance of *traditional music and dance* in South African theatre.

(5)

2.2 How has South African theatre reflected the country’s transition from apartheid to democracy?

(5)

2.3 Identify and discuss TWO South African plays or playwrights that address social justice.

(6)

2.4 What role do *community theatres* play in South African society?

(4)

2.5 Explain how theatre can contribute to *cultural preservation* in South Africa.

(5)

SECTION C: PERFORMANCE SKILLS (30 marks)

QUESTION 3

3.1 What is the importance of *voice modulation* in acting?

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(4)

3.2 List and describe FOUR different *types of movement* actors use on stage.

(8)

3.3 How can an actor use *space* creatively during a performance?

(6)

3.4 Explain the concept of *emotional recall* and its use in acting.

(4)

3.5 Describe the importance of *timing* in delivering lines and actions on stage.

(4)

3.6 How can *body language* communicate a character's inner thoughts? Give examples.

(4)

SECTION D: THEATRE PRODUCTION & DESIGN (25 marks)

QUESTION 4

4.1 What is the purpose of a *stage manager* in a production?

(4)

4.2 Explain how *lighting design* can influence the storytelling in theatre.

(5)

4.3 Describe the importance of *costume changes* during a performance.

(4)

4.4 What are *soundscapes* and how are they used in theatre?

(4)

4.5 Identify THREE safety considerations that must be observed during rehearsals and performances.

(8)

END OF EXAM

TOTAL : 100

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SECTION A: DRAMATIC FORMS & GENRES (20 marks)

1.1 Definitions

a) *Absurdist Theatre*

A genre that focuses on the absurdity of human existence, often using illogical scenes and nonsensical dialogue.

b) *Melodrama*

A dramatic work that emphasizes exaggerated emotions, clear heroes and villains, and moral polarization.

c) *Farce*

A comedy that uses highly exaggerated and improbable situations to entertain.

d) *Documentary Theatre*

A style of theatre that uses real-life documents, interviews, and facts to tell a story.

1.2 Characteristics of Physical Theatre

- Uses the body and movement as the primary means of expression.
 - Often minimal use of spoken dialogue, relying on physicality.
 - Includes dance, mime, and gesture.
 - Explores abstract ideas through movement.
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1.3 Effect of breaking the fourth wall

- Directly engages the audience, breaking the imaginary barrier.
 - Creates intimacy or complicity with viewers.
 - Can add humor or highlight a theme.
 - Makes audience more active participants.
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1.4 Role of narrator

- Guides the audience through the story.
 - Provides background or commentary.
 - Can offer insight into characters or events.
 - Helps with transitions and pace.
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SECTION B: SOUTH AFRICAN THEATRE & CULTURE (25 marks)

2.1 Traditional music and dance

- Integral to storytelling and cultural expression.
 - Adds rhythm, mood, and energy.
 - Connects theatre to heritage and community.
 - Supports communication of themes and emotions.
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2.2 Theatre reflecting transition from apartheid

- Explores themes of freedom, reconciliation, and identity.
 - Challenges social injustices and promotes dialogue.
 - Portrays diverse voices and experiences.
 - Helps society heal and understand history.
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2.3 South African plays/playwrights addressing social justice

(Examples)

- Athol Fugard: Exposes apartheid and human rights abuses.
 - Mbongeni Ngema: Highlights cultural pride and social issues.
 - Discuss how their works raise awareness and inspire change.
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2.4 Role of community theatres

- Provide accessible platforms for local stories.
 - Empower marginalized voices.
 - Educate and entertain communities.
 - Promote cultural pride and participation.
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2.5 Theatre and cultural preservation

- Preserves languages, traditions, and histories through performance.
- Encourages younger generations to value their heritage.
- Uses storytelling to keep culture alive.
- Builds cultural identity and pride.

SECTION C: PERFORMANCE SKILLS (30 marks)

3.1 Importance of voice modulation

- Keeps the audience engaged.
 - Expresses different emotions and intentions.
 - Helps differentiate characters.
 - Enhances clarity and impact of speech.
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3.2 Types of movement

- Gestural: Using hands and arms to communicate.
 - Locomotor: Movement that travels through space (walking, running).
 - Facial: Expressive use of facial muscles.
 - Postural: The way the body is held to indicate mood or status.
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3.3 Using space creatively

- Actors can use proximity to others to show relationships.
 - Movement across the stage can show status or mood changes.
 - Levels (standing, sitting) can add visual interest.
 - Using stage areas to represent different locations or ideas.
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3.4 Emotional recall

- Technique where actors draw on personal memories to access genuine emotions.
 - Helps make performances authentic and believable.
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3.5 Importance of timing

- Good timing makes dialogue and actions more natural and effective.
 - Helps build tension or humor.
 - Ensures smooth interactions between actors.
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3.6 Body language communicating thoughts

- Slumped shoulders can show sadness or defeat.
 - Crossing arms may indicate defensiveness.
 - Avoiding eye contact can show guilt or fear.
 - Confident posture can show authority or power.
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SECTION D: THEATRE PRODUCTION & DESIGN (25 marks)

4.1 Purpose of stage manager

- Organizes rehearsals and performance schedules.
 - Coordinates communication between cast and crew.
 - Ensures smooth running of performances.
 - Manages backstage operations.
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4.2 Lighting design's influence

- Sets mood and atmosphere.
 - Highlights focus areas on stage.
 - Suggests time and place.
 - Supports the emotional tone of scenes.
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4.3 Importance of costume changes

- Shows character development or time passage.
 - Helps audience understand different roles or identities.
 - Keeps visual interest.
 - Can highlight mood or status changes.
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4.4 Soundscapes

- Layered background sounds creating an immersive environment.
 - Used to support storytelling or set mood.
 - Includes natural sounds, music, or effects.
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4.5 Safety considerations

- Clear emergency exits.
- Proper use and storage of props and equipment.

- Avoiding running or horseplay backstage.
- Use of protective gear where needed.
- Good lighting backstage.
- Awareness of fire safety rules.

TOTAL : 100

