

GCSE (9–1)
Candidate Style Answers

DRAMA

J316
For first teaching in 2016

Section A: Find Me – exemplar 1 with commentary

Version 2



Contents

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Introduction | 3 |
| Question 1 | 4 |
| Question 2 | 5 |
| Question 3 | 6 |
| Question 4 | 7 |
| Question 5 | 8 |
| Question 6 | 9 |
| Question 7 | 10 |
| Question 8 | 11 |

INTRODUCTION

This resource has been produced by senior members of the GCSE 9-1 Drama examining team to offer teachers an insight into how the assessment objectives are applied.

Please note that as these responses have not been through full moderation, this resource is provided for advice and guidance only and does not in any way constitute an indication of grade boundaries or endorsed answers.

The sample assessment material for these answers and commentary can be found on the GCSE 9-1 Drama web page: <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-drama-j316-from-2016/>

QUESTION 1

- 1 Select **one** line from the list below. Explain how it has an impact on this character in the performance text you have studied.

Blood Brothers

'Edward: Well, my mummy doesn't allow me to play down here actually'

Death of a Salesman

'Happy: See, Biff, everybody around me is so false that I'm constantly lowering my ideals...'

Find Me

'Jean: Other mothers cope. I feel so inadequate'

Gizmo

'Rust: I'm walking away now. I suggest you do the same, eh'

Kindertransport

'Evelyn: You've made a commitment to moving into that place. Stick by it'

Missing Dan Nolan

'Pauline: ...I just delegated it... Ask your father'

Misterman

'Thomas: It all began from a Nothing. This loud crashing all began as a whisper...'

[4]

SAMPLE ANSWER

Find Me. Jean.

Jean feels completely hopeless as a mother because she can't support her daughter as she struggles with her behaviour. She feels un-maternal because her husband has a better relationship with her than she does. Ultimately it becomes so bad Jean feels the only way to cope is to consider alcoholism or to just leave home.

COMMENTARY

The candidate scored three out of a possible four marks. The candidate's response covers three potential impacts of the line in relation to Jean. They also demonstrate, with some clear references to moments from the text, the impact this will have on Jean.

To gain a top mark, the candidate needs to identify a further potential impact on the character, such as: the implication that all she does is complain to Edward about Verity; she thinks she will go mad and wants to get away from her own child.

QUESTION 2

- 2 Select **one** stage design from the photographs below. Justify why this could be suitable for a production of the performance text you have studied.

[4]

SAMPLE ANSWER

Set 6 would be the most suitable set. The colour scheme connects well to that of a home that is struggling as well as the white canvas of the mental hospital/children's ward of the 1970's. The corridors and hallways that are represented within the design also link to when Verity (the protagonist) comments on when she feels trapped and enclosed. The stage left area that currently looks like a waiting area can be used for multi-locations e.g. waiting area for a table at the French restaurant, waiting to see doctors, headteachers and social workers. With the use of simple projections up on wall above the stage left door you can indicate the location e.g. 'The Doctor Waiting Room' and this can clearly tell the audience.

COMMENTARY

The candidate scored three out of a possible four marks. A very strong response. The candidate's suggestions are well reasoned in referring to the potential of Set 6 and some detailed understanding in relation to semiotics is offered, as well as a clear understanding of how the different areas could be used within the piece.

To gain full marks the candidate needs to offer a fuller justification as to how and why this Set is appropriate for this piece and demonstrate a clear justification, with reference to further specific moments from the text, on how this could potentially impact on the actors/audience.

QUESTION 3

3 Select the character from the performance text you have studied:

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------|----------------------------|---------|
| <i>Blood Brothers</i> | Mrs Lyons | <i>Death of a Salesman</i> | Linda |
| <i>Find Me</i> | Jean | <i>Gizmo</i> | Bernice |
| <i>Kindertransport</i> | Faith | <i>Missing Dan Nolan</i> | Greg |
| <i>Misterman</i> | Mrs Cleary | | |

Complete the table below by listing **three** ways in which an actor could use their voice to portray this character. Justify your choices with examples from the performance text you have studied.

[6]

SAMPLE ANSWER

| Use of Voice | Justification |
|---|---|
| Tone: Desperation, frustration, strain. | After Jean has had a long conversation with Miss Everitt she is totally drained, frustrated and fed up she goes into a long monologue where the tone must reflect that. |
| Volume: Louder and quieter | During scenes where Jean has to talk to her sons and daughter she shouts at Verity when her behaviour is wild but then talks quietly to her youngest son who will be finding Verity quite distressing and talks at normal volume to her eldest son. |
| Clarity and diction | Jean talks very clearly with medial professionals throughout, She has short sharp sentences when she defends her daughter and talks to clarify points about her behaviour/diagnosis. |

COMMENTARY

The candidate scored three out of a possible four marks. A very strong response. The candidate's suggestions are well reasoned in referring to the potential of Set 6 and some detailed understanding in relation to semiotics is offered, as well as a clear understanding of how the different areas could be used within the piece.

To gain full marks the candidate needs to offer a fuller justification as to how and why this Set is appropriate for this piece and demonstrate a clear justification, with reference to further specific moments from the text, on how this could potentially impact on the actors/audience.

QUESTION 4

- 4 Explain, using examples from the performance text you have studied, how stage directions can be used to support the actors in communicating their role to the audience.

[6]

SAMPLE ANSWER

Because Find Me has a lack of chronological order and isn't set in a conventional space, it also runs at a fast pace with the option of an interval with actors multirolling you need stage directions in order to ensure the play makes sense to the audience. For example: Characters suddenly swap from playing one character to another and this is indicated in brackets, Sisters Moses at the end of the play becomes Jean, Verity's mother, and this wouldn't make sense if the stage direction information wasn't given. Due to the fact that Verity is represented by 5 different versions of Verity as well it is essential to have stage directions to indicate which verity is speaking and what the other verity's are doing etc.

COMMENTARY

The candidate scored four out of a possible six marks. A sound response. The candidate explains the relevance of stage directions in relation to the performance text. They also demonstrate clear examples of the uses of stage directions and how the actors need to use them to aid the delivery and meaning of some key moments within the performance text.

Although the examples given are clear, there is only a limited acknowledgement of the connection and impact that the uses of stage directions can have on the audience

To gain additional marks, the candidate needs to add more detail to their understanding of stage directions and the impact this has specifically on the audience. Their understanding of the text in relation to stage directions also sometimes lacks depth. Their response needs to explore the meaning/interpretation of text more in specific relation to key moments. Offering examples from their practical work to explain and/or justify how stage directions have impacted on an audience, referring to specific moments from the text, would allow for a more rounded response.

QUESTION 5

- 5 Compare the advantages and disadvantages for an actor when presenting the performance text you have studied 'in the round'.

[6]

SAMPLE ANSWER

The advantages to the staging Find Me in the round for an actor is that of the connection to the mental health theme, Verity feels trapped and has things whirling around in her head so having the audience wrapped around the action would link to this. The disadvantages for an actor in find me is the huge amount of entrances and exits that are needed to keep up with the flow of the play and the multi-roling this would be really difficult to sustain having to exit and enter through the audience everytime. The staging of therapy scenes and in particular the physiotherapy scene towards the end of the play would work nicely having them sat in a circle like a true representation of a session – they could all sit outward or inward facing depending on the connection they would want to have with their audience in this scene.

COMMENTARY

The candidate scored four out of a possible six marks. A strong response. The candidate has offered some clear examples in relation to both the advantages and disadvantages of performing 'in the round', with some sound reasoning in relation to specific aspects of the text. A sound understanding of staging and proxemics are also discussed within their potential ideas.

To gain additional marks, the candidate needs to further compare and contrast this style of staging, its advantages and disadvantages, in relation to key specific moments from the text. A greater acknowledgement of the potential impact on the audience is also required in relation to a performance 'in the round'; such as: engagement with audience; more versatile seating and set changes in front of the audience.

QUESTION 6

- 6 Discuss how a director could stage the opening of the performance text you have studied to engage the audience from the start. You may refer to the direction of the performers and/or design of the scene in your answer.

[8]

SAMPLE ANSWER

Having a bare stage as a given from Olwen Wymark gives a blank canvas to designers. To link to the theme of mental health a harsh open white wash of lighting across the stage which snaps up rather than fades up would be most effective. Having the various Verity's located at different points across the stage. The opening lines from the narrator gives the overview of the whole story so I wouldn't have an actor on stage delivering the lines I would have this pre-recorded and played through the onstage speakers, almost like a radio broadcast. Whilst this plays I would have projected photographs of Verity and her family. The 5 lines that follow are all from the various actors playing Verity who repeat the titles of the play 'Find me' I would have each of these lines delivered straight out to the audience as direct address so straight away the audience are engaged and made to feel like they must help to 'find' verity.

COMMENTARY

The candidate scored five out of a possible eight marks. A sound response. The candidate suggests a very workable concept which reveals a sound understanding of the role of director, with some design aspects included. All their ideas towards the direction of the opening sequence are relevant and reveal a sound knowledge and understanding of proxemics and semiotics from the onset.

The question requires the candidate to demonstrate how the decisions they make, as a director, work to engage the audience and although this is displayed within their concept, engagement is implied rather than being specific. To gain additional marks, the candidate needs to offer a clearer understanding of the potential engagement with the audience for each directorial decision they make, which is again backed up with explicit examples from the text, to justify the decisions made.

QUESTION 7

7 Describe **one** suitable costume for a character from the performance text you have studied. Justify why your choices are appropriate.

In your answer, name the character from the performance text you have studied. You may include a sketch of your design with annotations in your answer.

[8]

SAMPLE ANSWER

A suitable costume for Verity in Act 1 when Mark remembers the time they were on holiday in France and they went for a family meal to a French restaurant for a treat. I would start the memory with Verity dressed smartly in a dress, knee high clean white socks, smart patent shoes, clean face and hair in two pig tail plaits. At the beginning of the scene Verity looks like an intelligent but slightly over enthusiastic child desperate to impress with her French knowledge but as the scene continues she begins to lose control and acts in a totally unacceptable social way. As she deteriorate her socks fall to her ankles and her become dirtier as she scrambles around the restaurant, her hair starts to fall out of the plaits and her patent shoes get scuffed and damaged. All of the damage to her once prestine outfit is all representative of an intelligent child who can't conform to social expectations.

COMMENTARY

The candidate scored six out of a possible eight marks. A very strong response. The candidate has developed a clear concept of the costume for Verity with some sound justification as to why, with examples, this costume is suitable for the character within the piece at this specific moment. The candidates overall design is strong and well reasoned with clear reference to overall characterisation and relevant aspects of the text.

To gain additional marks, the candidate needs to refer fully within their concept of costume design, to the time and period, colour of all garments and consider the genre, style and context of their costume suggestions. Their response would have benefitted from sketches of their design, which were annotated, outlining justification for their ideas.

QUESTION 8

- 8 Explain, using two examples, how the social and/or historical context can be seen in the performance text you have studied.

[8]

SAMPLE ANSWER

In 1970's England Verity's needs could not be treated or understood in the way in which they would be today. Verity is clearly a child on the autistic spectrum but this was never diagnosed, the facilities and interventions they had in society in the 1970's weren't suitable to support her needs as the consultant says "There has never been enough money spent on facilities and staff to provide environments for this kind of case" in today's society Verity and her family would be supported and it would be encouraged to retain her in mainstream education, specialist teachers are now around and funding is available to support her needs.

Verity is punished under Section 65 of the Mental Health Act of 1959, in today's law the most recent Mental Health Act of 2007, deems that a court can rule that someone convicted of an offence should be detained in hospital to receive treatment instead of being sent to prison (this is sometimes called a hospital order), in today's society Verity wouldn't receive such a harsh conviction for her crime and she would get treatment to help her.

COMMENTARY

The candidate scored six out of a possible eight marks. A very strong response. Two highly relevant examples are offered with clear links to the potential consequences they will have on Verity's character. There is also a sound comparison to the relevance of these issues in relation to a contemporary audience.

This question asks how these issues are discussed within the performance text. The candidate reveals a detailed understanding of the two key issues they highlight, and they discuss in detailed terms how these issues were relevant to the period in which the play was written, as well as linking to later periods in time.

To gain additional marks the candidate needs to select and clearly explain how these key social and/or historical issues are used/discussed, specifically within the play. This needs to be demonstrated further with strong reference to key moments/scenes. Candidates should discuss how their chosen two examples are explored and developed in the text and the potential impact they have on character, situation and ultimately the audience within these key aspects of the text. An accomplished response to this question requires the candidate to clearly highlight how their two chosen issues are discussed at different stages throughout the text. This should then be justified with an acknowledgement of how some aspects could be performed to exemplify the outcomes of their chosen issues.



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