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*Candidate Style Answers*

# DRAMA AND THEATRE

H459/31
For first teaching in 2016

## Q7 Level 3 - sample answer with commentary: Bouncers

Version 1

www.ocr.org.uk/drama

# INTRODUCTION

This resource has been produced by the A Level Drama and Theatre assessor team to offer teachers an insight into how the assessment objectives are applied. Please note that 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 this answer and commentary can be found on the A Level Drama and Theatre web page here: http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/242806-unit-h459-31-analysing-characters-for-performance-sample-assessment-material.pdf

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# SECTION B QUESTION 7

Analyse a live performance you have seen, outlining the director's interpretation and how effective you think it was. At the start of your answer state the name, venue and date (month and year) of the live performance you have seen. **[30]**

## SAMPLE ANSWER

We went to watch an amateur production of Bouncers in Blackpool on the 8th April 2016. The play was written by British playwright John Godber and it was directed by Tim Haymore in the Town Hall with a small cast (only four male actors). It is a play that is one of the most performed plays of the twentieth century and is set in a nightclub called Mr Cinders (although the director chose not to use this name).

The action of the play mainly focuses upon four bouncers (Eric, Judd, Les and Ralph) and they retell events from the nightclub and the people who go into the nightclub. Although there are only four bouncers, they have to play the parts of over 20 characters. It would be impossible to stage this realistically.

The set helped the cast accommodate the many costume changes that have to be completed throughout the course of this fast-paced play. Throughout the play, the bouncers have to change into different roles sometimes even female roles in order to show a snapshot of what life is like on a Friday night in a northern nightclub. They did this by using different props to show the different characters and this often helped to show the audience that they had changed into the female roles. The props were stored in the beer barrels on the stage. These barrels were placed in many different areas to show new spaces.

The director clearly wanted to remain faithful to the play's northern roots because all of the actors spoke in a northern accent. This was effective because the play was being shown in Blackpool and so we understood many of the jokes and could relate to how they spoke. This play is a comedy so it is important that an audience understand the jokes. The director had even added in small local references such as mentioning the Tower Ballroom at one point.

The set design was minimal, much like some sets used by Brecht, with the actors mainly sitting outside a nightclub on old beer barrels, in front of a large neon sign that looked just like the exterior of a nightclub. Dry ice was sometimes used which helped emphasise that it was cold outside the club. This minimalist set design did not always keep the audience's attention and sometimes seemed a little monotonous. Whilst the dialogue between characters is realistic and how men would talk outside of a club, the staging was not always realistic and this was sometimes a little confusing. There was also a scene in which the bouncers staged a fight in slow motion. Again, this was not realistic.

The music was updated so that the younger members of the audience would have recognised tracks by artists such as Kanye West and Calvin Harris however older members of the audience would not have found this relatable.

The audience seemed to be mainly made up of GCSE and A Level students who may be studying the play for an exam. However, all members of the audience did seem to laugh at the many jokes in the play especially when the bouncers danced around the stage with handbags pretending to wear high heels. It was an enjoyable performance to watch with many laughs.

**Level 3**


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## Commentary

There is a clear understanding of the context of Godber's play and the candidate is able to discuss how this was reflected in the production through the use of local accent/dialect. There is knowledge and understanding of Godber's style and use of music to update the piece. Artistic decisions are discussed and evaluated with reference to lighting, sound, costume and physicality of the actor demonstrating an understanding of how meaning is conveyed in performance. The essay has a simple but clear structure and uses some technical vocabulary. Ideas are generally clear although the reference to beer barrels and how changes of location were created needs further development.

## Improvements

Improvements would include clarification of these points and a more extensive range of examples which focus on the detail of particular moments and the message conveyed through the detailed techniques and conventions and a clear evaluation of those elements.


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