

Modified Enlarged 24pt
OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

Monday 2 June 2025 – Morning

A Level Drama and Theatre

H459/31 Analysing Performance

**Time allowed: 2 hours 15 minutes
plus your additional time allowance**

**YOU MUST HAVE:
the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet**

READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF



INSTRUCTIONS

Use black ink.

Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.

Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.

Answer TWO questions on the theme you have studied in Section A and the question in Section B.

INFORMATION

The total mark for this paper is 60.

The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].

Quality of written communication will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).

ADVICE

Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

SECTION A

Answer BOTH questions on ONE THEME in this section.

THEME 1: Conflict

Use ONE performance text in your answer to EACH question.

Use a DIFFERENT performance text for EACH question.

Write the name of the performance text you have studied at the start of each answer.

‘Black Watch’ – Gregory Burke

‘Hamlet’ – William Shakespeare

‘Necessary Targets’ – Eve Ensler

‘Oh! What a Lovely War’ – Joan Littlewood

**‘The Long and the Short and the Tall’
– Willis Hall**

- 1 Select a character from the play you have studied. As an actor, how would you vary your pacing to show conflicts in that character's mind?**

Refer to at least THREE scenes to support your answer. [15]

AND

- 2 As a set designer, how would you create opportunities for the actors to bring out conflicts in the drama in the play you have studied?**

Refer to the OPENING scenes to support your answer. [15]

THEME 2: Family Dynamics

Use ONE performance text in your answer to EACH question.

Use a DIFFERENT performance text for EACH question.

Write the name of the performance text you have studied at the start of each answer.

‘A Day in the Death of Joe Egg’ – Peter Nichols

‘King Lear’ – William Shakespeare

‘Live Like Pigs’ – John Arden

‘The Caucasian Chalk Circle’ – Bertolt Brecht

‘The House of Bernarda Alba’ – Federico García Lorca

- 3 As a director, how would you balance the tensions between characters in the OPENING scene or scenes of the play you have studied? [15]**

AND

- 4 Select a character from the play you have studied. As an actor, how would you perform this role to help build dramatic tension within the family?**

Refer to at least THREE scenes to support your answer. [15]

THEME 3: Heroes and Villains

Use ONE performance text in your answer to EACH question.

Use a DIFFERENT performance text for EACH question.

Write the name of the performance text you have studied at the start of each answer.

‘Amadeus’ – Peter Shaffer

‘Caligula’ – Albert Camus

‘Frankenstein’ – Nick Dear

‘Othello’ – William Shakespeare

‘The Love of the Nightingale’ – Timberlake Wertenbaker

- 5 What design elements would you use to create a sinister atmosphere in the OPENING scenes of the play you have studied? [15]**

AND

- 6 As an actor playing a character with villainous qualities, what acting skills would you use to make the character likeable OR dislikeable to the audience?**

Refer to at least THREE scenes to support your answer. [15]

SECTION B

At the start of your answer write the name, venue and date (month and year) of the live performance you have seen.

7* Consider the range of design elements in the live production you have seen.

Explain how these created opportunities for the actors to bring out their character or characters to maximum dramatic effect. [30]

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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