



Qualifications and
Curriculum Authority



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



Rewarding Learning

GCE A level performance descriptions for drama and theatre studies

July 2007

QCA/07/3223

Introduction

Performance descriptions have been created for all GCE subjects. They describe the learning outcomes and levels of attainment likely to be demonstrated by a representative candidate performing at the A/B and E/U boundaries for AS and A2.

In practice most candidates will show uneven profiles across the attainments listed, with strengths in some areas compensating in the award process for weaknesses or omissions elsewhere. Performance descriptions illustrate expectations at the A/B and E/U boundaries of the AS and A2 as a whole; they have not been written at unit level.

Grade A/B and E/U boundaries should be set using professional judgement. The judgement should reflect the quality of candidates' work, informed by the available technical and statistical evidence. Performance descriptions are designed to assist examiners in exercising their professional judgement. They should be interpreted and applied in the context of individual specifications and their associated units. However, performance descriptions are not designed to define the content of specifications and units.

The requirement for all AS and A level specifications to assess candidates' quality of written communication will be met through one or more of the assessment objectives.

The performance descriptions have been produced by the regulatory authorities in collaboration with the awarding bodies.

AS performance descriptions for drama and theatre studies

	Assessment objective 1	Assessment objective 2	Assessment objective 3	Assessment objective 4
Assessment objectives	Demonstrate the application of performance and/or production skills through the realisation of drama and theatre.	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of practical and theoretical aspects of drama and theatre using appropriate terminology.	Interpret plays from different periods and genres.	Make critical and evaluative judgements of live theatre.
A/B boundary performance descriptions	Candidates characteristically: a) produce work that is creative and results from a well-developed understanding of the content, form, style and/or genre b) present work that is technically accomplished, disciplined and communicates effectively with an audience.	Candidates characteristically: a) demonstrate detailed knowledge and understanding of relevant aspects of drama and theatre using appropriate terminology b) present work that is well organised, clear and fluent.	Candidates characteristically: a) analyse and comment on the key characteristics of the play in terms of its performance potential and provide practical ideas for a dramatically effective interpretation in performance b) interpret comprehensively the meaning of a play through application of ideas and concepts appropriate to the context.	Candidates characteristically: a) demonstrate the ability to make sound critical and evaluative judgements of live theatre.
E/U boundary performance descriptions	Candidates characteristically: a) produce work that is based on a partial understanding of the context of the work b) produce work that sometimes communicates with an audience but has a restricted level of technical accomplishment.	Candidates characteristically: a) demonstrate some degree of knowledge and understanding of some aspects of drama and theatre, using some appropriate terminology b) present work that communicates in a straightforward way although is not always entirely accurate.	Candidates characteristically: a) identify some of the play's theatrical characteristics in terms of its performance potential b) provide an obvious and straightforward interpretation of a play.	Candidates characteristically: a) demonstrate some ability to make evaluative judgements of live theatre.

A2 performance descriptions for drama and theatre studies

	Assessment objective 1	Assessment objective 2	Assessment objective 3	Assessment objective 4
Assessment objectives	Demonstrate the application of performance and/or production skills through the realisation of drama and theatre.	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of practical and theoretical aspects of drama and theatre using appropriate terminology.	Interpret plays from different periods and genres.	Make critical and evaluative judgements of live theatre.
A/B boundary performance descriptions	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) produce work that is imaginative and highly creative b) demonstrate a high level of understanding of the content, form, style and/or genre c) present work that demonstrates sustained technical accomplishment, communicates effectively to an audience, and has a real sense of purpose. 	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) demonstrate a depth of knowledge and understanding of relevant aspects of drama and theatre, articulating their awareness of the relationship between theory and practice b) write accurately, use terminology appropriately, and organise, sustain and develop an argument based on well-chosen examples. 	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) reflect analytically and perceptively on the key characteristics of the play in terms of its performance potential and provide inventive practical ideas for a dramatically effective interpretation. 	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) demonstrate the ability to consistently make accurate critical and evaluative judgements of live theatre.
E/U boundary performance descriptions	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) produce work that shows a straightforward understanding of the content, form, style and/or genre b) present work where technical achievement is often insufficient to enable an effective performance. 	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) demonstrate generalised knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre, making some connections between theory and practice b) write in a way that communicates ideas and understanding but where the meaning is sometimes obscured by incorrect information. 	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) respond to a play with some ideas that provide a workable interpretation of the performance of the play. 	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) demonstrate some ability to make critical and evaluative judgements of live theatre.