

## 2.3 Component 3

### Interpreting Theatre

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

40% of qualification

60 marks

This component requires learners to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is developed and performed through the study of a performance text and through responding to live theatre.

### Section A

Centres are reminded that the texts chosen for Components 2 and Component 3 must be contrasting. The criteria for selecting appropriately contrasting texts for Component 2 and Component 3 are listed below.

- The texts must be written by different playwrights.
- The texts must be from culturally different time periods.
- The texts must contrast in theme.

Please see the table in Section 2.2 for confirmation of these details.

Learners will study **one** complete performance text from the list below. It is expected that learners will approach the study of the text **practically** as an actor, designer and director. A clean copy (no annotation) of the chosen set text must be taken into the examination. The following editions must be used:

1. **The Tempest** William Shakespeare (Wordsworth: ISBN 978-1-85326-203-6)
2. **The Caucasian Chalk Circle** Bertolt Brecht (Penguin Modern Classics: ISBN 978-0-141-18916-1)
3. **Hard to Swallow** Mark Wheeler (dbda: ISBN 978-1-902843-08-7)
4. **War Horse** Nick Stafford (Faber: ISBN 978-0-571-24015-9)
5. **DNA** Dennis Kelly (Oberon: ISBN 978-1-84002-952-9).

Learners must consider how the text is constructed and how performances create meaning through:

- the characteristics of the performance text, including
  - genre
  - structure
  - character
  - form and style
  - language/dialogue
  - stage directions
- the social, historical and cultural context including the theatrical conventions of the period in which the performance text was created
- how meaning is interpreted and communicated through
  - performance conventions
  - use of performance space and spatial relationships on stage, including the impact of different stages (proscenium arch, theatre in round, traverse and thrust) on at least one scene
  - relationships between performer and audience
  - the design of lighting, sound, set (including props) and costume and make-up
  - the actor's vocal and physical interpretation of character.

## Section B

Learners are required to analyse and evaluate **one** piece of live theatre viewed during the course. It is recommended that learners take the opportunity to view a professional full length theatre production. However, the work of amateurs can be used, but not the work of peers. It is also recommended that learners see more than one live performance when preparing for this assessment to allow sufficient scope for answering on a variety of aspects during the examination. The live theatre production chosen for viewing must not be the text studied in Section A of this component.

Centres are required to provide a written statement confirming that reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that each learner at the centre has experienced live performance, where they were a member of the audience in the same performance space as the performers, as part of their studies for WJEC Eduqas GCSE (9-1) Drama. A form for this purpose is available on the WJEC Eduqas website and must be submitted by 31 May in the year of the award.

Learners will be expected to analyse and evaluate how meaning is communicated through the role of theatre makers in contemporary professional performance. Learners must consider the role of the:

- actor
  - interpretation of character
  - character interaction
  - vocal skills
  - movement skills
- designer
  - creation of mood and atmosphere
  - use of performance space
  - lighting
  - sound
  - set and props
  - costume and make-up
- director
  - interpretation and style
  - performance conventions
  - spatial relationships on stage
  - relationship between performer and audience
- reaction and response
  - individual
  - audience.

## Assessment

### Section A: 45 marks

- a series of questions assessing knowledge and understanding of an **extract** from the set text (30 marks)
- **one** question assessing knowledge and understanding of the **wider** text (15 marks)

Note: a clean copy (no annotation) of the chosen set text must be taken into the examination. Centres must ensure that on entering the examination room, all candidate texts are checked to confirm that they are clean (with no annotation). WJEC must be notified of any infringements.

### Section B: 15 marks

Learners will be expected to provide basic details of the production, including the name of the play, company and venue.

- **one** question, from a choice of two, assessing analysis and evaluation of a given aspect of a live theatre production (15 marks)

Learners will be expected to understand and use appropriate drama and theatre terminology in this component. A list of specialist drama terms relevant to this component is located in Appendix C. The list is not exhaustive and is intended as a guide for teachers and learners.