

Teacher Resource Bank

GCE Drama and Theatre Studies

Other Guidance:

- Command Words



COMMAND WORDS

AS UNIT 1

Section A

Here is a list of the command words that candidates should expect to find in questions that appear in Section A of Unit 1.

- **Outline**
- **Explain**
- **Assess**
- **Evaluate**

We have included below some examples of questions that use these command words and an explanation of what each command word requires.

Example 1

Outline the set design(s) in one live production that you have seen where the designer adopted a non-naturalistic approach, and evaluate the success of the designs in creating a suitable setting for the action, at particular moments from the play.

Outline

Candidates should give a clear outline description of the set design that they have chosen to refer to.

Evaluate

Candidates should weigh up the merits of the design and make a judgement about its success in creating a suitable setting for the action.

Example 2

Explain how one or more performers used vocal, physical and facial expression to engage the audience at particular moments within one live production that you have seen, and assess the effectiveness of their performances.

Explain

Candidates should give a clear account of the ways that the performer(s) used vocal, physical and facial expression.

Assess

Candidates should judge the effectiveness of the performances taking various factors into account.

In Unit 1, Section A, in addition to fulfilling the requirements of the ‘command words’, candidates must remember to note the precise demands of each question and to refer to particular moments from the chosen production to support their explanations and assessments.

AS UNIT 1

Section B

Here is a list of the command words that candidates should expect to find in questions that appear in Section B of Unit 1.

- **Explain**
- **Outline**
- **Justify**

We have included below some examples of questions that use these command words and an explanation of what each command word requires.

Example 1

Explain how you would perform the role of the Sentry, in each of his two appearances, in order to reveal his change of attitude from his initial fear for his own life to his relief as he brings a guilty Antigone before Creon.

[In some editions, the Sentry appears as the Soldier or Guard.]

Explain

Candidates should give a clear account of how they would perform the role of the Sentry to reveal his change of attitude.

Example 2

Briefly outline and justify your casting decisions for Mr Galloher and Mrs Henderson and then explain how you would direct them in Act One of the play in order to create comedy for your audience.

Outline

Candidates should give a clear outline of the physical and vocal qualities that they would require in the actors playing the roles of Mr Galloher and Mrs Henderson.

Justify

Candidates should give their reasons behind the casting decisions that they have made.

Explain

Candidates should give a clear account of how they would direct their actors in order to create comedy.

In Unit 1, Section B, in addition to fulfilling the requirements of the ‘command words’, candidates must take care to focus on the precise demands of each question and to answer from the perspective of director, actor or designer as specified in the question.

We have included below some examples of questions with different requirements and an explanation of how candidates should approach the set tasks.

Example 1a

What effects would you wish to create for your audience at the end of the play?
Explain how you would **direct** the section from the entrance of Eurydice to the end of the play in order to achieve your aims.

Candidates should begin by stating their preferred effects (for example, shock or horror or catharsis) before explaining, from the perspective of a director, how the chosen effects are to be achieved.

Example 1b

As a **designer**, **what effects** would you want to create for your audience in Act Four, Scene One (*Petruchio's homecoming with his new bride*)? Explain how your set design for the scene and costume designs for **two or more** characters would achieve your aims.

Candidates should begin by stating their preferred effects (for example, comedy or surprise at Petruchio's household) before explaining, from the perspective of a designer, how the chosen effects are to be achieved through set and costume design.

Example 2a

How would you **perform** the role of Christine Linde in Act One of the play in order to engage the sympathy of your audience?

Candidates should note that the question demands performance ideas calculated to 'engage the sympathy' of the audience and they should offer details about how they would perform the role of Christine Linde in order to achieve this. The answer should be written from the perspective of an actor.

Example 2b

How would you want your audience to **respond** to Sir John French? Explain how you would **perform** the role in his appearances in Acts One and Two in order to achieve your aims.

Candidates should begin by specifying their preferred audience response to Sir John French (for example, distaste, amusement, amazement) and they should offer details about how they would perform the role in order to achieve this response. The answer should be written from the perspective of an actor.

NB Questions that invite a performer's perspective on a specific role may be answered by candidates of either gender.

A2 UNIT 3

Section A

Here is a list of the command words that candidates should expect to find in questions that appear in Unit 3.

- **Explain**
- **Outline**
- **Justify**

(see explanation of these command words, above) and, additionally:

- **Discuss**
- **Analyse**

We have included below some examples of questions that use these command words and an explanation of what each command word requires.

Example 1

Discuss how you would perform the role of Dorine, in two or three sections of the play, in order to create comedy for your audience.

Discuss

Candidates should give a reasoned explanation of how they would perform the role of Dorine in order to create comedy for the audience.

Example 2

Analyse the effects you would want to create for your audience through your presentation of the relationship between Silvio and Clarice. Briefly **outline** and **justify** your casting decisions for the pair and then **discuss** how you would direct your actors, in at least two scenes where they appear together, in order to achieve your aims.

Analyse

Candidates should give a considered examination of the effects they wish to create through the presentation of the young lovers' relationship.

As in Unit 1, Section B, candidates must take care in Unit 3, Section A to focus on the precise demands of each question and to answer from the perspective of director, actor or designer as specified in the question as well as fulfilling the requirements of the 'command words'.

A2 UNIT 3

Section B

In Section B, the questions set on each play will always be the same. This question includes detailed instructions that candidates must follow. The initial command word used is:

Discuss

The question is always as follows:

As a director, **discuss** how you would stage the following extract from (set play) in order to bring out your interpretation of it for an audience.

Your answer should include justified suggestions for the direction of your cast and for the design of the piece as appropriate to the style of the play and to your creative overview of it.

You should also supply sketches and/or diagrams and refer to relevant research to support your ideas.

Discuss

Candidates should give a reasoned explanation of how they would stage the given extract.