

GCSE (9–1)
Candidate Style Answers

DRAMA

J316
For first teaching in 2016

Section A: Gizmo – exemplar 1 with commentary

Version 2



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INTRODUCTION

This resource has been produced by senior members of the GCSE 9-1 Drama examining team to offer teachers an insight into how the assessment objectives are applied.

Please note that as these responses have not been through full moderation, 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 these answers and commentary can be found on the GCSE 9-1 Drama web page: <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-drama-j316-from-2016/>

QUESTION 1

- 1 Select **one** line from the list below. Explain how it has an impact on this character in the performance text you have studied.

Blood Brothers

'Edward: Well, my mummy doesn't allow me to play down here actually'

Death of a Salesman

'Happy: See, Biff, everybody around me is so false that I'm constantly lowering my ideals...'

Find Me

'Jean: Other mothers cope. I feel so inadequate'

Gizmo

'Rust: I'm walking away now. I suggest you do the same, eh'

Kindertransport

'Evelyn: You've made a commitment to moving into that place. Stick by it'

Missing Dan Nolan

'Pauline: ...I just delegated it... Ask your father'

Misterman

'Thomas: It all began from a Nothing. This loud crashing all began as a whisper...'

[4]

SAMPLE ANSWER

The impact of this line is really ironic, Rust should really be the person to walk away, the impact on him as a character is that because he doesn't walk away himself from the situation he lands in hot water when Manny arrives who is much 'harder' than him. Ben, who he is telling to walk away initially of course, can't walk away as he is unable to do so without Ted getting up and walking away too and Ted can't do that as he has been injured and left on the floor.

COMMENTARY

The candidate scored three out of a possible four marks; a sound response which covers some potential impacts on Rust with some specific reference to moments from the text.

To gain top marks, the candidate needs to highlight and identify a further potential impact on the character, such as that Rust's understanding of the relevance of the watch.

QUESTION 2

- 2 Select **one** stage design from the photographs below. Justify why this could be suitable for a production of the performance text you have studied.

[4]

SAMPLE ANSWER

I would choose set design 1 which gives a blank canvas and allows for versatility of space. Projecting is also option with the blank canvas at the top edge of the set, especially with the scene changes. Having a white canvas also adds to the futuristic style nature of the storyline. Having the audience end on allows for believability of being in a lecture theatre at the start of the play. The recessed area up stage allows for discrete entrances and exits (particular when the scene takes place in Manny's apartment) as well as raking the stage for the park scene where green can be projected on to the white canvas and then the rake naturally allows for a status situation to be created when Rust starts with high status and move downstage as Manny arrives upstage and takes control upstage.

COMMENTARY

The candidate scored four out of a possible four marks. An accomplished response. The candidate's suggestions are well reasoned in referring to the potential of Set 1, exemplified with some detailed understanding in relation to proxemics. Justification is also clear with reference to specific moments from the text.

QUESTION 3

3 Select the character from the performance text you have studied:

<i>Blood Brothers</i>	Mrs Lyons	<i>Death of a Salesman</i>	Linda
<i>Find Me</i>	Jean	<i>Gizmo</i>	Bernice
<i>Kindertransport</i>	Faith	<i>Missing Dan Nolan</i>	Greg
<i>Misterman</i>	Mrs Cleary		

Complete the table below by listing **three** ways in which an actor could use their voice to portray this character. Justify your choices with examples from the performance text you have studied.

[6]

SAMPLE ANSWER

Use of Voice	Justification
Projection	Bernice is talking and presenting to a whole audience so needs to project to do this.
Clarity	Bernice needs to talk with clarity and enunciation when she is talking to address her audience formally.
Questioning tone, going up at the end of sentences.	Bernice changes her tone when questioning Ben and the doctors to find out more about gizmo for the audience.

COMMENTARY

The candidate scored five out of a possible six marks. A very strong response. The uses of voice are thoughtful and relevant, as are most of the candidate's justifications. To gain a top mark, the candidate needs to offer a more coherent justification for some uses of voice with explicit examples from the text.

QUESTION 4

- 4 Explain, using examples from the performance text you have studied, how stage directions can be used to support the actors in communicating their role to the audience.

[6]

SAMPLE ANSWER

The stage directions are essentials for any actor who interacts with Ben as they have to copy his movements when he is supposed to be able to move. The stage directions are imperative to give information for the actors and designers to be able to communicate to the audience. For example at the end of scene 1 when Ben and David have to 'convince' the audience that Ben is being controlled by the Gizmo this scene needs the direction given by Ayckbourn to add clarity to the scene, because this play is a comedy the humorous elements wouldn't work without the information given to the actors in the way in which it is.

COMMENTARY

The candidate scored three out of a possible six marks. A sound response. The candidate offers some clear examples of stage directions and describes how the actors will use them with sound evidence and reference to key moments in the performance text. To gain additional marks, the candidate needs to add more detail to their understanding of stage directions and the impact this has specifically on the audience. Their understanding of the text in relation to stage directions also lacks depth. Offering examples from their practical work to explain and/or justify how stage directions have impacted on an audience, referring to specific moments from the text, would allow for a more rounded response.

QUESTION 5

- 5 Compare the advantages and disadvantages for an actor when presenting the performance text you have studied 'in the round'.

[6]

SAMPLE ANSWER

For certain scenes the disadvantages would be because of the believability of scenes e.g. having a lecture theatre with an audience on all 4 sides – this isn't normal, or it is rather unusual at least. As an actor, for example playing Bernice having an audience on all 4 sides doesn't cause an issue to any great deal but it does present a challenge. The advantage during the hospital scene is the sense of having patients, wards, visitors etc on all sides of you which is naturalistic the same as when the action takes place in the park. For the actors having to communicate with an audience during the Cevril and Ben scenes it is difficult to have the action taking place through the door and down a flight of stairs, this scene would work better staged as traverse as the sightlines are too difficult in this set up for this scene.

COMMENTARY

The candidate scored four out of a possible six marks. A strong response. The candidate has given clear examples, especially in relation to the disadvantages of performing 'in the round', with some very sound reasoning in relation to specific moments from the text. There are some elements of comparison as well and alternatives to potential staging are discussed.

To gain additional marks, the candidate needs to demonstrate a deeper understanding of the alternative potential to using this style of performance, looking at the staging from both perspectives especially in relation to the potential advantages of staging 'in the round'. These could include, for example, engagement with audience and more versatile seating, and they could discuss key moments from the text in relation to this.

QUESTION 6

- 6 Discuss how a director could stage the opening of the performance text you have studied to engage the audience from the start. You may refer to the direction of the performers and/or design of the scene in your answer.

[8]

SAMPLE ANSWER

As the audience are entering give them clipboards and pens to make them feel like they are part of the 'lecture.' The lights would then go down on the auditorium areas but the audience would be asked in the pre-show information to remain standing so that when Barth says "Would you please be seated" the audience do so as well as the actors on stage and feel very much a part of the action. The settling down sound is created by actors on stage who 'fill' the audience atmosphere as well as a recorded sound track. The lighting would be bright white wash across the stage with just a spot light that tracks in on Barth and then tracks to pick up Bernice as she enters the stage. The actors would wear clip on lapel mics but would also have lecture mics as they stand on stage to create the lecture theatre atmosphere.

COMMENTARY

The candidate scored six out of a possible eight marks. The candidate offers a powerful insight into the direction of the opening sequence with some clear design elements and displays a sound knowledge and understanding of the role of a director from the onset.

To gain additional marks, the candidate needs to offer a clear understanding of the potential engagement with the audience for each directorial decision they make, which is evidenced with explicit examples from the text to justify all the decisions made.

QUESTION 7

7 Describe **one** suitable costume for a character from the performance text you have studied. Justify why your choices are appropriate.

In your answer, name the character from the performance text you have studied. You may include a sketch of your design with annotations in your answer.

[8]

SAMPLE ANSWER

For the character of Cevril I would choose a low cut red dress as the red symbolises not only her initial impression of lust and passion with Manny but also her red criminal undercover top secret. Cevril's dress would be long with a long split – similar to that of Jessica Rabbit's dress from Roger Rabbit. Cevril would also wear a strapless bra so that it works with the style of dress and also helps later on in the scene when Ben has to also get undressed when Cevril is changing wearing the Gizmo – it would add to comedic nature of the play if Ben is seen having to wriggle out of a bra rather than underdoing it from behind.

COMMENTARY

The candidate scored five out of a possible eight marks. A thoughtful response. The candidate has developed a sound concept for the costume for Cevril in relation to some key aspects. Their justification for choice is demonstrated with some examples from the performance text also.

To gain additional marks, the candidate needs to offer a more detailed and fully justified costume description, an annotated drawing would help enormously, and discuss this in relation to period, texture, status. Consideration of make-up and hair would also help enhance their response further.

QUESTION 8

- 8 Explain, using two examples, how the social and/or historical context can be seen in the performance text you have studied.

[8]

SAMPLE ANSWER

This play epitomising the advancements in technology, particularly in the area of medicine. There are many social debates about science and nature and to what degree science should interfere with natural human development. Gizmo was written in 1999 so interestingly way after the development of cloning, IVF and stem cell technologies but before the huge developments in Apple and PC computing with the likes of ipads and apple watches. This play also looks at the social development of alpha males and gang mentality which is even more prolific in todays society, when Manny and Rust have to stamp their authority over one another and the dispute of status and intimidation comes to the fore. The gang mentality also seeps into the status of men and women and this can be seen by the way in which Manny speaks down to and treats Cevril so the representation of men and women within society is also seen in Gizmo.

COMMENTARY

The candidate scored six out of a possible eight marks. A very sound response. Two highly relevant examples are offered and some clear links to aspects of the text in relation to 'technology', and the 'alpha male', are discussed.

To gain additional marks, the candidate needs to select and clearly explain how two examples of key social and/or historical issues are used/discussed within the play, backed up with strong reference to key moments/scenes also. Candidates should discuss how their chosen two examples are explored and developed in the text and the potential impact they have on character, situation and ultimately the audience within these key aspects of the text. An accomplished response to this question requires the candidate to clearly highlight how their two chosen issues are discussed at different stages throughout the text. This should then be justified with an acknowledgement of how some aspects could be performed to exemplify the outcomes of their chosen issues.



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