

STUDENT NUMBER Letter

THEATRE STUDIES

Written examination

Wednesday 15 November 2023

Reading time: 9.00 am to 9.15 am (15 minutes)

Writing time: 9.15 am to 10.45 am (1 hour 30 minutes)

QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK

Structure of book

Section	Number of questions	Number of questions to be answered	Number of marks
A	2	2	30
B	1	1	10
C	1	1	10
			Total 50

- Students are permitted to bring into the examination room: pens, lead and coloured pencils, water-based pens and markers, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners, rulers, protractors, compasses, set squares and aids for curve sketching.
- Students are NOT permitted to bring into the examination room: blank sheets of paper and/or correction fluid/tape.
- No calculator is allowed in this examination.

Materials supplied

- Question and answer book of 24 pages
- Detachable insert for Section A in the centrefold
- Additional space is available at the end of the book if you need extra space to complete an answer.

Instructions

- Detach the insert from the centre of this book during reading time.
- Write your **student number** in the space provided above on this page.
- You **may** support **any** of your answers with illustrations and/or diagrams.
- All written responses must be in English.

At the end of the examination

- You may keep the detached insert.

Students are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any other unauthorised electronic devices into the examination room.

SECTION A – Production roles and interpretation**Instructions for Section A**

Please remove the insert from the centre of this book during reading time.

Use the information in the insert to answer the questions in this section.

Consider the dramaturgy in the insert and the script excerpt(s) provided to inform your responses.

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

Question 1 (20 marks)

Select one of the following production roles to interpret *Our Town*. This production role **must** be different from the production role you will select for Question 2.

- actor
- director
- designer: costume
- designer: make-up
- designer: props
- designer: set
- designer: lighting
- designer: sound

Production role for Question 1 _____

You **must** refer to the same production role in your responses to **parts a.–e.** of this question.

- b. Select **one** of the following elements of theatre composition to apply to your interpretation of Script excerpt 1:
- emphasis
 - contrast

Selected element _____

Annotate Script excerpt 1 in **three** places to explain how work in your production role can apply your selected element in your interpretation. 4 marks

Use the following information to answer parts b.–e.

Read Script excerpt 1.

The character of the stage manager may be played as male, female or non-binary.

Script excerpt 1

[...] *The audience, arriving, sees an empty stage in half-light.* [...]

stage manager:
This play is called “Our Town.” It was written by Thornton Wilder [...] The name of the town is Grover’s Corners, New Hampshire [...]. The First Act shows a day in our town. The day is May 7, 1901. The time is just before dawn.

A rooster crows

The sky is beginning to show some streaks of light over in the East there, behind our mount’in. The morning star always gets wonderful bright the minute before it has to go,—doesn’t it?

[...]

Well, I’d better show you how our town lies¹. Up here—

[...]

is Main Street. Way back there is the railway station; tracks go that way. [...]

Here’s the Town Hall and Post Office combined; jail’s in the basement.

[...]

Along here’s a row of stores². Hitching posts³ and horse blocks⁴ in front of them. First automobile’s going to come along in about five years— belonged to Banker Cartwright, our richest citizen ... lives in the big white house up on the hill.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Question 2 (10 marks)

Select **one** of the following production roles to interpret a scene from *Our Town*. This production role **must** be different from the production role selected for Question 1.

- actor
- director
- designer: costume
- designer: make-up
- designer: props
- designer: set
- designer: lighting
- designer: sound

Production role for Question 2 _____

You must refer to the **same** production role in your responses to **part a.** and **part b.** of this question. Read Script excerpt 2 before responding to this question.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Script excerpt 2

The stage manager has been [...] watching the audience return to its seats.

stage manager:

Three years have gone by.

Yes, the sun's come up over a thousand times.

Summers and winters have cracked the mountains a little bit more and the rains have brought down some of the dirt.

Some babies that weren't even born before have begun talking regular sentences already; and a number of people who thought they were right young and spry have noticed they can't bound¹ up a flight of stairs like they used to, without their heart fluttering a little.

All that can happen in a thousand days.

[...]

It's early morning. Only this time it's been raining. It's been pouring and thundering.

Mrs. Gibbs' garden [...]: drenched.

All those bean poles and pea vines: drenched.

All yesterday over there on Main Street, the rain looked like curtains being blown along.

Hm ... it may begin again any minute.

There! You can hear the 5:45 for Boston².

[...]

It's like what one of those Middle West poets said: You've got to love life to have life, and you've got to have life to love life ... It's what they call a vicious circle.

Source: TN Wilder, *Our Town, A Play in Three Acts*, Harper, New York, 1957, pp. 46–47

¹**bound** – to run energetically

²**5:45 for Boston** – a train to Boston

SECTION B – Theatre analysis and evaluation**Instructions for Section B**

Answer the question(s) in the space(s) provided.

The following question relates to the 2023 VCE Theatre Studies playlist for Unit 3 and Unit 4. Select one of the following plays. This play **must** be different from the play you will select for Section C.

1. *The Crocodile* by Tom Basden
Theatre company: Spinning Plates

OR

2. *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* by JK Rowling, Jack Thorne and John Tiffany
Theatre company: Michael Cassel Group

OR

3. *Bernhardt/Hamlet* by Theresa Rebeck
Theatre company: Melbourne Theatre Company

OR

4. *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller
Theatre company: Hearth Theatre

OR

5. *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare
Theatre company: Bell Shakespeare

OR

6. *I Wanna Be Yours* by Zia Ahmed
Theatre company: Melbourne Theatre Company

OR

7. *Away* by Michael Gow
Theatre company: Theatreworks

OR

8. *Miss Peony* by Michelle Law
Theatre company: Arts Centre Melbourne

OR

9. *Monument* by Emily Sheehan
Theatre company: Red Stitch Actors' Theatre

OR

10. *Cactus* by Madelaine Nunn
Theatre company: Mad Nun Productions with La Mama Theatre

OR

11. *Animal Farm* adapted from the George Orwell novel by the Bloomshed ensemble
Theatre company: Bloomshed

SECTION C – Performance analysis and evaluation**Instructions for Section C**

Answer the question(s) in the space(s) provided.

The following question relates to the 2023 VCE Theatre Studies playlist for Unit 3 and Unit 4. Select one of the following plays. This play **must** be different from the play you selected for Section B.

1. *The Crocodile* by Tom Basden
Theatre company: Spinning Plates

OR

2. *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* by JK Rowling, Jack Thorne and John Tiffany
Theatre company: Michael Cassel Group

OR

3. *Bernhardt/Hamlet* by Theresa Rebeck
Theatre company: Melbourne Theatre Company

OR

4. *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller
Theatre company: Hearth Theatre

OR

5. *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare
Theatre company: Bell Shakespeare

OR

6. *I Wanna Be Yours* by Zia Ahmed
Theatre company: Melbourne Theatre Company

OR

7. *Away* by Michael Gow
Theatre company: Theatreworks

OR

8. *Miss Peony* by Michelle Law
Theatre company: Arts Centre Melbourne

OR

9. *Monument* by Emily Sheehan
Theatre company: Red Stitch Actors' Theatre

OR

10. *Cactus* by Madelaine Nunn
Theatre company: Mad Nun Productions with La Mama Theatre

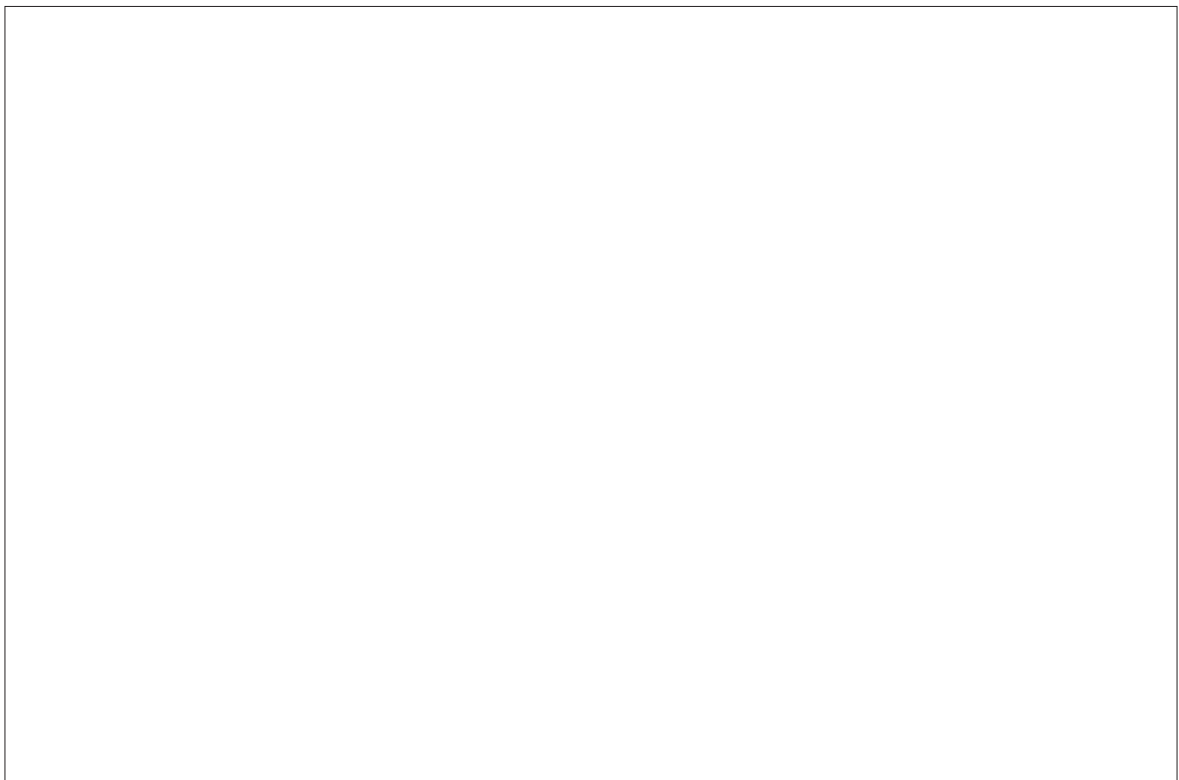
OR

11. *Animal Farm* adapted from the George Orwell novel by the Bloomshed ensemble
Theatre company: Bloomshed

Aspect number 5



Aspect number 6



Aspect number 7



Aspect number 8



TURN OVER

Aspect number 9



Sources

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