

STUDENT NUMBER Letter

THEATRE STUDIES

Written examination

Wednesday 25 November 2020

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 20 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 *The 39 Steps*. This production role **must** be different from the production role selected 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.**

Planning

- a. Select one of the following aspects of the play's context. Each aspect is explained in the dramaturgy provided in the insert.
1. A comedy based on a thriller
 2. Character transformations used in the original production of the play
 3. A theatrical representation of an action movie
 4. Comedy in the performance

Number of selected aspect _____

Explain how your selected aspect of the play's context could inform work in your selected production role during the planning stage. In your response, refer to **one or more** of the research images from the dramaturgy provided.

3 marks

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

Read Script excerpt 1. The scene takes place near the start of the play. Richard Hannay is a wealthy, unmarried Englishman who has recently returned to London from overseas. He is feeling a little lost and bored with his life. To cheer himself up, he goes to the theatre but the performance is disrupted by gunshots. In the chaos, he meets Annabella, a mysterious German woman, who asks if she can go with him to his flat at Portland Place in inner-city London.

The playwright intended the scene to have both moments of comedy and moments of suspense.

Script excerpt 1

Hannay's Flat. Night

[...]

Hannay It was you who fired that revolver in the theatre [...]

Annabella Very well. Have you ever heard of the – *(She lowers her voice)* – Thirty-nine Steps?

Due to copyright restrictions,
this material is not supplied.

Source: Patrick Barlow, *The 39 Steps*, Samuel French, London, 2010, pp. 6–9

¹**Music Hall** – a theatre that presents music, comedy and novelty acts

²**tribbies** – stereotypical gangster's hats

- e. During the presentation stage, how could you document and evaluate work in the two production roles that was used to create the deliberate effect on the audience from **part d.**? 3 marks

*This space is for any illustrations or diagrams to support your responses (optional).
Please label clearly with the relevant question number(s).*

Question 2 (10 marks)

Select one of the following production roles to interpret a scene from *The 39 Steps*. 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.**

Use the following information to answer parts a. and b.

Read Script excerpt 2. The monologue takes place after the scene in Script excerpt 1. Annabella has been found murdered in Richard Hannay's flat in Portland Place in London and Hannay is suspected of the crime, although he did not commit it. He is trying to avoid arrest by travelling through various parts of England and Scotland with the police in pursuit.

Script excerpt 2

Forth Bridge

[...]

Hannay starts to run. The plane chases Hannay

Due to copyright restrictions,
this material is not supplied.

¹**plummy** – upper-class, posh

³**v.o.** – voice over

²**BBC** – British Broadcasting Corporation

⁴**aquiver** – trembling

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 2020 VCE Theatre Studies playlist for Unit 3.

Select one of the following plays.

1. *Torch the Place* by Benjamin Law

Theatre company: Melbourne Theatre Company

OR

2. *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde

Theatre company: Malthouse Theatre and Ridiculusmus

OR

3. *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* by Ray Lawler

Theatre company: HIT Productions

OR

4. *Running with Emus* by Merrilee Moss

Theatre company: La Mama Theatre and Ghost Theatre

OR

5. *This is Eden* by Emily Goddard

Theatre company: Emily Goddard

Write the number and the title of the play in the spaces provided.

Play no.

Title of play _____

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 play that you have seen for Unit 4. This play **must** be different from the play you selected in Section B.

Write the title of the play in the space provided.

Title of play _____

Select one character from the play.

Insert for Section A

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

Dramaturgy

The following information is a collection of dramaturgical research about *The 39 Steps*, a play by Patrick Barlow, adapted from the novel by John Buchan and the movie by Alfred Hitchcock.

Aspects of the play's context

1. A comedy based on a thriller

- The play is a comedy that makes fun of the conventions of the thriller genre, which include mystery, chase scenes, spies, murder, mistaken identities and aspects of romance.
- John Buchan published the novel *The Thirty-Nine Steps* in 1915.
- Alfred Hitchcock, the master of suspense, adapted John Buchan's novel into a movie in 1935.
- Like Hitchcock's movie, Patrick Barlow's play is set in the lead-up to World War II.
- In the lead-up to World War II, there was political tension between England and other countries (especially Germany) and fear that there were spies who threatened national security.

2. Character transformations used in the original production of the play

- The play was originally performed by four actors, who each played different characters in the play.
 - One actor played the character of HANNAY, the romantic lead who is falsely accused of murder.
 - One actor played the characters of ANNABELLA, PAMELA and MARGARET – these female characters are HANNAY's love interests in the play.
 - Two actors, referred to as CLOWN 1 and CLOWN 2, played all other characters in the play, including gunmen wearing 'sinister trilbies', policemen and a radio announcer.
- There are approximately 250 characters who were played by the four actors.

3. A theatrical representation of an action movie

- Hitchcock's movie, on which the play is based, includes murders, shootings, train chases, plane crashes, someone being chased by an aeroplane, and gangsters in fast cars.
- The settings of the play include a flat in inner-city London, a theatre, a train station, a train carriage, a bridge high above a river, and the Scottish moors.

4. Comedy in the performance

- Part of the comedy of the play results from the audience being aware that the actors are challenged by a task that seems impossible.
- The actors are trying to make a play in the style of an action-filled movie that uses many different locations and has a large cast of characters.
- In the original production of the play, the actors used their acting skills to transform the limited set pieces and properties to create the range of characters and settings.
- Many of these changes of location and character are very fast-paced and difficult. Sometimes the play's original production aimed to impress the audience with quick and clever changes; sometimes the production aimed to show the actors being silly or making mistakes performing these quick changes.

Research images

Research image 1 – A poster made in the style of Art Deco, an art style of the 1920s and 1930s



Research image 2 – An empty stage area with various objects and theatre technologies



Research image 3 – A man from the 1930s wearing a stereotypical gangster's hat and a trench coat



Research image 4 – A range of simple comedic disguises



Sources

Research image 1: svekloid/Shutterstock.com

Research image 2: aerogondo2/Shutterstock.com

Research image 3: Stokkete/Shutterstock.com

Research image 4: lynea/Shutterstock.com

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