

Drama and Theatre

Time allowed: 1.5 hours (90 minutes)

Answer any TWO questions

1. Write a review of a theatre performance that you have recently watched. You should use the following questions to help you develop your review:

What was the general characteristic of the *mis-en scene*?

What was the staging configuration and how did this help shape the performer audience relationship?

What objects, set design, media or technology, lighting, costumes were there?

What kinds of performances were the actors/performers doing? Acting/non-acting/task-based/physical performance.

What was the function of music/noise/silence?

What was the story being told and how did the staging help to tell the story?

Was there text? If so, how did it help tell the story? If there wasn't, what other elements of the performance could be considered the text of the performance?

What was the reaction of the audience to the performance? What were your expectations before watching the performance and how did you feel afterwards?

2. Discuss why you believe musical theatre productions are such a popular genre of theatre. You should use examples of productions to illustrate your argument.
3. All theatre is political – discuss.
4. Discuss how you would develop and adapt a historic play for a contemporary theatre audience. You should use one play text (Shakespeare, Ibsen, Chekhov or others) as your case study text.
5. You are working in an ensemble of 6 performers and have been given the theme of 'Home' as your starting point. Describe how you might devise an ensemble piece based around this theme. You must include how you would undertake research, devising processes, rehearsal strategies, audience and staging and potential issues that might arise working as a group.

6. What do you understand by two of the following terms: realism, naturalism, expressionism, theatre of the absurd and/or post- dramatic theatre? Where appropriate you should refer to play texts, productions or performance events you have seen to illustrate your answer.