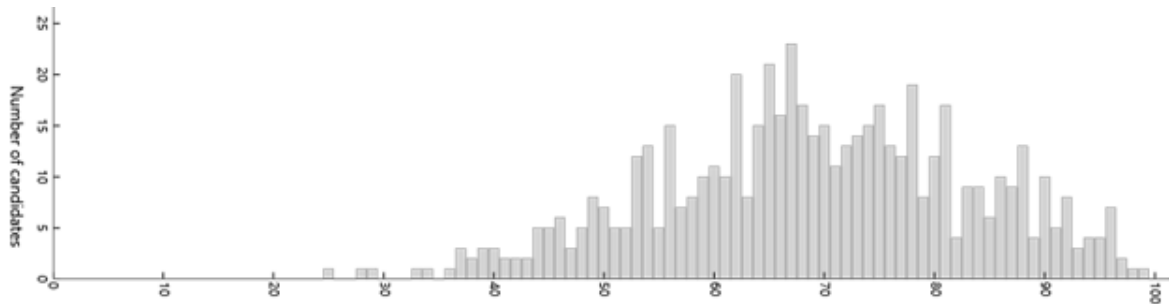




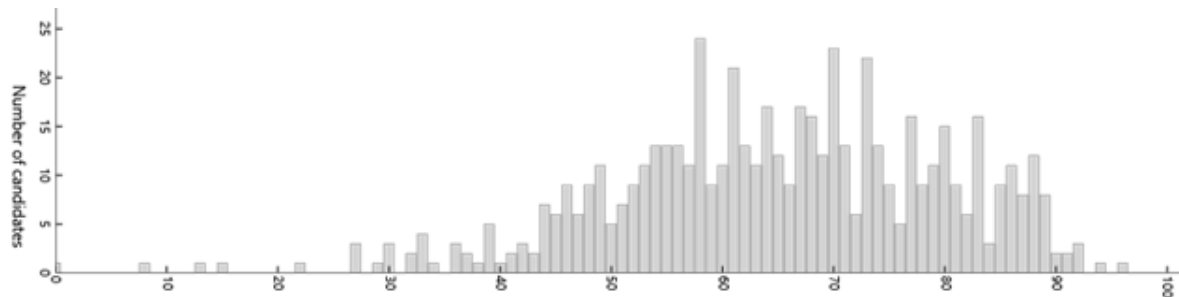
Summary report of the 2019 ATAR course examination: Drama

| Year | Number who sat all examination components | Number of absentees from all examination components |
|------|---|---|
| 2019 | 567 | 9 |
| 2018 | 649 | 12 |
| 2017 | 698 | 9 |

Examination score distribution–Practical



Examination score distribution–Written



Summary

Candidates completed a practical and a written examination.

Practical examination

The practical examination consisted of three performances and an interview.

Attempted by 572 candidates Mean 68.87% Max 99.00% Min 24.83%

Section means were:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------|----------|
| Original solo performance | Mean 70.97% | | |
| | Mean 28.39(/40) | Max 40.00 | Min 8.67 |
| Scripted monologue | Mean 71.58% | | |
| | Mean 21.47(/30) | Max 30.00 | Min 7.80 |
| Spontaneous improvisation | Mean 65.89% | | |
| | Mean 13.18(/20) | Max 20.00 | Min 5.50 |
| Interview | Mean 58.30% | | |
| | Mean 5.83(/10) | Max 10.00 | Min 0.33 |

Written examination

The paper clearly tested knowledge of the syllabus and enabled candidates to work to their strengths. The questions elicited a range of responses, allowing for discrimination of candidate ability. Section One provided an opportunity for candidates to show their knowledge, even if they were not strong in their application of roles. The questions required the demonstration of a range of skills, including the provision of diagrams and annotations. References to the unseen drama text has improved compared to previous years, with candidates providing specific examples to support and justify responses; although sometimes they needed to consider the detail in their responses in relation to the amount of space provided. Section Two questions were open-ended, accessible and applicable to all set texts.

Attempted by 572 candidates Mean 64.99% Max 96.21% Min 7.58%

Section means were:

Section One: Analysis and interpretation of a drama text Short answer

Mean 65.68%

Attempted by 572 candidates Mean 39.41(/60) Max 58.50 Min 4.50

Section Two: Australian drama and world drama Extended answer

Mean 64.19%

Attempted by 570 candidates Mean 25.68(/40) Max 40.00 Min 3.08

General comments

Practical examination

Candidates were cognisant of the four sections of the performance examination with candidates effectively transitioning from one part of the examination to the next. The mean of 68.87% compares favourably with last year's mean. Candidates made informed choices about purposeful props and sound in their performances with evidence of practitioner approaches in the construction of their pieces.

Advice for candidates

- Blocking choices in all performance sections of the examination need to be motivated and purposeful, not just used to gain marks for movement and use of stage space.
- In the Spontaneous improvisation, you need to closely apply the stimuli in both construction and performance. You also need to apply voice and movement more creatively to develop character.
- More consideration needs to be given to costume choices rather than just defaulting to blacks or active wear. If wearing jewellery, you need to consider whether it is appropriate for your characters.
- Use interview questions available on the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) website, to practise formulating responses for your Original solo performance and Scripted monologue.

Advice for teachers

- Props made of glass or ceramics or the use of liquids are not allowed in the examination.
- The tendency to rely on narrative rather than dramatic action remains in the Original solo performance. Encourage your students to show, not tell.
- Your students need to understand the notion of extending the given idea in the Spontaneous improvisation. By practising this in rehearsal, it will assist them to demonstrate this skill in performance.
- Interview questions are available on the SCSA website for your students to practise.

Written examination

Advice for candidates

- Address key scenes or sections clearly in your responses to be awarded full marks.
- Lengthy introductions need to be avoided; instead address the relevant dot points in clearly, well labelled sections.
- Use diagrams/sketches as appropriate for the role and question and incorporate effective use of colour and annotation to enhance responses.

Advice for teachers

- Revise key syllabus concepts and terminology with your students.
- Students need to be aware of the amount of space provided for each question in the Drama examination paper. Some candidates are giving responses that are too brief or too long. Provide your students with practice at framing responses within the number of lines provided for each question in the examination paper.

Comments on specific sections and questions

Practical examination

Original solo performance (30 Marks)

Attempted by 572 candidates

Candidates have continued to take creative risks with choices in performance and have shaped their pieces to meet the required time. There was less of a focus on creating multiple characters and design and/or technologies were generally used.

Scripted monologue (25 Marks)

The degree of rigour in the quality of the selected monologues has improved translating into strong performance choices. There was some evidence of practitioner approaches being incorporated into the pieces. The removal of the technical assistant from this section did not affect the ability to score well in Design.

Spontaneous improvisation (20 Marks)

Candidates did not always extend beyond the stimulus idea. Some were still using the same vocal and physical qualities demonstrated in Parts One and Two of their examination.

Interview (15 Marks)

Generally, candidates were able to answer questions on the Original solo performance and Scripted monologue better than answers given for their Improvisation. There was, however improvement overall in the use of drama language and terminology.

Written examination

Section One: Analysis and interpretation of a drama text Short answer (40 Marks)

A majority of candidates answered the first short answer question convincingly by providing direct, specific references to the drama script and supporting their answers with relevant text examples. The second question allowed many candidates to demonstrate their insightful ideas and creativity in dealing with symbolism and atmosphere in relation to the drama text.

Section Two: Australian drama and world drama Extended answer (26 Marks)

The 'actor' question was the most popular choice with the 'costume designer' being the least chosen question in Section Two. Overall, candidates need to be consistent in the application of the required concepts across all three parts of a question. Candidates need also to approach the chosen role with application of the appropriate, specific terminology and techniques associated with that role.