

## 8286 Component 2 Written Paper November 2013

### Moderator's Report

For the 2013 session four centres submitted. There was a good range of material represented with candidates answering questions on the following: Greek Theatre (*Oedipus*), Shakespearean Drama (*Macbeth*, *Much Ado*), Comedy of Manners (*An Ideal Husband*), Political Theatre (*Mother Courage*), British Contemporary Drama (*Metamorphosis*) and Aotearoa/New Zealand Theatre (*Children of the Poor*).

21 candidates were sampled across 4 centres using both top and bottom candidates and a uniform representative interim range.

Roughly 45% of candidates opted for acting and directing (OPC) based questions with 55 % focussing on aspects of design. There was some evidence of planning in a number of cases and the general impression was that candidates had been well prepared for the examination.

Candidates engaged quite effectively with the texts and overall there was clear evidence of a secure understanding of stylistic conventions and socio-historical contexts. A few candidates seemed to confuse questions; for example one candidate answered Q.3 (b), an 'acting' question, within the parameters set by Q.3 (a), a 'modern day production'. There were also a number of instances where candidates incorrectly nominated the number of a question. Fortunately, in these circumstances it was clear which question was intended and the marker applied the assessment criteria appropriately.

Indeed, application of the mark scheme was consistent throughout and the assessor adhered strictly to the criteria. There were occasional instances where credit was awarded to technical aspects when the focus of the question was on performance but this was not significant and did not affect the overall outcome.

The assessor may have experienced a challenge in connection with one particular centre from which the candidates had responded with a slightly unconventional focus. The candidates from this centre made much use of notes and illustrations and there were circumstances where candidates did not always address the question straightforwardly, occasionally deviating from the question requirement. For example, there was a tendency to give undue weighting to costume when the question was about set design. Another example is where the question was set from a directorial point of view but where candidates tended to approach the answer through character analysis and including set, costume and make up. The marking for this centre was therefore a little generous but overall and on balance, the differences were slight and again, taken across all the centres the standard was not compromised in any way. However, it is recommended that this be looked out for in future sessions.

This was an engaging and on the whole, successful examination outcome for all. Thank you.