

VCE Theatre Studies

2019–2023

Written examination – End of year

Examination specifications

The examination will be sat at a time and date to be set annually by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). VCAA examination rules will apply. Details of these rules are published annually in the *VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook*.

There will be 15 minutes reading time and 1 hour and 30 minutes writing time.

The examination will be marked by a panel appointed by the VCAA.

The examination will contribute 30 per cent to the study score.

Content

The *VCE Theatre Studies Study Design 2019–2023* is the document for the development of the examination.

All of the key knowledge and key skills that underpin Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 in Unit 3, and Outcomes 1 and 3 in Unit 4, and the content found in the section ‘Terms used in this study’ (pages 9 and 10), are examinable.

Format

The examination will be in the form of a question and answer book.

The examination will consist of three sections.

Section A – Production roles and interpretation

Section A will consist of short-answer and extended-answer questions, including questions with multiple parts. The questions will require an interpretation of an unseen script excerpt(s) and may be drawn from Unit 3, Area of Study 1 and Area of Study 3, and Unit 4, Area of Study 1 and Area of Study 3.

The questions may require students to respond to a script excerpt(s) and dramaturgy.

The script excerpt(s) will include stage directions and other information in addition to the dialogue/lines of the play from one or more scripts. The script excerpt(s) will not require any knowledge of the play(s) from which it is derived or of its context within the play(s). The script excerpt(s) will be selected from a broad range of theatrical styles and periods in theatre history. Students will be required to read the script excerpt(s) and apply their understanding of it by commenting on it and/or relating it to the application of production roles.

The dramaturgy may take the form of research, illustrations, designs, photographs and other images. The dramaturgy will not require students to have prior knowledge of a particular play, production or designer. The associated questions will require students to apply their knowledge of theatre production gained during the year. The dramaturgy for Section A will be presented in a detachable insert in the centrefold.

Section A will be worth a total of 30 marks.

Section B – Theatre analysis and evaluation

Section B will consist of short-answer and/or extended-answer questions, and may include questions with multiple parts. Students will be required to answer questions based on **one** play from the VCE Theatre Studies playlist for Unit 3 for the year in question. Questions will be drawn from Unit 3, Area of Study 3. Section B will be worth a total of 10 marks.

Section C – Performance analysis and evaluation

Section C will consist of short-answer and/or extended-answer questions, and may include questions with multiple parts. Students will be required to answer questions based on **one** play from the VCE Theatre Studies playlist for Unit 4 for the year in question. Questions will be drawn from Unit 4, Area of Study 3. Section C will be worth a total of 10 marks.

In each section, some questions may allow students the option of using illustrations and/or diagrams either to respond to a question or to support written responses.

All questions will be compulsory. The total marks for the examination will be 50.

Answers are to be recorded in the spaces provided in the question and answer book.

Approved materials and equipment

- Normal stationery requirements (pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers)
- Coloured pencils, water-based pens and markers, protractors, compass, set squares and aids for curve sketching

Relevant references

The following publications should be referred to in relation to the VCE Theatre Studies examination:

- *VCE Theatre Studies Study Design 2019–2023*
- *VCE Theatre Studies – Advice for teachers 2019–2023*
- VCE Theatre Studies playlist (published annually)
- *VCAA Bulletin*

Advice

During the 2019–2023 accreditation period for VCE Theatre Studies, examinations will be prepared according to the examination specifications above. Each examination will conform to these specifications and will test a representative sample of the key knowledge and key skills from Unit 3, Outcomes 1, 2 and 3, and Unit 4, Outcomes 1 and 3.

Students should use command/task words, other instructional information within questions and corresponding mark allocations to guide their responses.