

GENERAL COMMENTS

Candidates had some interesting ideas in their prepared performances.

Take note of the following in order to improve:

- Props: It is an important part of any performance. During the rehearsals candidates should know what should be on stage. They also need to practise the setting up and cleaning afterwards on the stage. Candidates were performing around the props of the previous candidate without using any of the props. If during the rehearsals the teacher notices that a bed is needed, please supply one from the sick bay or elsewhere. Candidates 'sleeping' on chairs or desks is not on par with the standard expected of performances on NSSCO level.
- Costumes: Performing in school uniform when it is not part of the performance is a problem. Candidates should already have a costume ready during the mock examinations. Not having a character-related costume indicates poor planning.
- Experience: Most candidate performances suggest a lack of experience in stage performing. Basic stage etiquette such as facing the audience, bowing after a performance, even performing in the wings resulted in the loss of marks.
- Continuity: Candidates ending a performance after just one minute, because the music is not correct and so forth cannot be accepted on NSSCO level. Again this refers to insufficient preparation. Candidates must realise that this is an examination and they should be well prepared.
- Programmes: Presentation was much better than previously but it can still improve significantly.
- Sound: Sound and recordings were a nightmare at all schools. One candidate (not from Grade 11) should be put in charge of all the sound. Another candidate (not from Grade 11) should be responsible for the recordings. Centres had one person doing both sound and recordings and no rehearsals were done with this candidate. The result was that many recordings did not have sound, or that the wrong music was played during the performance. Again the importance of rehearsals cannot be underestimated. The same candidates can already be used during the mock examinations to gain experience. This will lift the standard of the performances as well as leaving less space for errors.

COMMENTS ON INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS

Prepared Individual questions

- There was too much changing of characters in general. Candidates should stick to only one character and pretend the other characters are there. Some candidates spend more time off-stage than on-stage to change character. Teachers really need to help the candidates in this regard. Practising to be one character and having imaginary other characters should start in Grade 8.
- Ideas need to become more imaginative. It is a story that is being told and performing an everyday 'day in my life' lacks creativity.
- Teacher's input is vital during the preparation and mock examinations to improve performances. Most of the time performances reflect that no assistance has been given.
- Much more time needs to be spent on stage etiquette in most cases.
- Most candidates performed too far to the back of the stage. They should be coached to perform on the apron.

Prepared Group

- Most groups were well prepared and gave good performances. Turning of candidates' backs to the audience was a huge problem though.
- Except for one centre, no planning went into the making of props.
- Candidates need not to dance to a whole song. A 15 minute performance should not devote more than 2 minutes to dancing. Much more time should go into the story and the acting.

Unprepared Individual

- Candidates performed well in this category and their performances were completed in good time (meaning not too short).

Unprepared Group

- Topic was well understood and in most performances the whole group participated well.
- Lack of stage etiquette again was a major setback unfortunately.
- Candidates came up with some excellent songs during the performances.

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POSITIVE SUGGESTIONS TO TEACHERS

- Motivate candidates to start planning and doing research in Grade 10 already.
- Write reports at least three times throughout the process to encourage candidates and also for them to improve their research.
- Thank you to the teachers who handed in beautiful portfolios.