

External assessment 2025

Question book

Drama

General instruction

- Work in this book will not be marked.

Section 1

Instructions

- There are two questions for each of the three recorded live performances.
 - Respond to **one** of the questions for your chosen recorded live performance.
 - Respond in 800–1000 words in the response book.
-

Prescribed recorded live performance 1: *Dust Pilgrim*

QUESTION 1

This content has been redacted for copyright purposes.

Redacted image can be viewed online:
Rice, E *Freedom*
<https://www.ellenrice.gallery/freedom-vol-4.html>

Evaluate how effectively key moments of dramatic action and meaning in *Dust Pilgrim* communicate the concept of freedom depicted in the image. Argue a position with reference to the manipulation of the elements of movement and character in relation to the convention of repetition.

OR

QUESTION 2

‘When in doubt, just take the next small step.’

Argue a position connecting the concept of courage depicted in the quote with key moments of dramatic action and meaning communicated in *Dust Pilgrim*. Justify your argument by evaluating the manipulation of the elements of mood and relationship in relation to the convention of symbolic image.

Contextual information

Production company: Red Leap Theatre

Creative

Co-directors: Julie Nolan and Kate Parker

Set design: Poppy Serano

Set mentor: Andrew Foster

Costume design: Charlie Baptist

Tour design: Poppy Serano

Lighting design: Rachel Marlow

Sound composition and design: Thomas Press

Imagery design and creation: Kate Parker and Rachel Hilliar

Dramaturgical adviser: Paolo Rotindo and Gary Henderson

Development cast: Rob Mokaraka

Production

Stage manager: Sophie Dowson

Lighting and sound technician: Rachel Marlow

Mechanical operator and ASM: Jamie Blackburn

Publicity: Elephant Publicity

Videography: Votre Arme

Photography: Simon Wilson Design, Josh Griggs and Andi Crown

Design: Awilaway Design and All My Springs

Devising cast: Alison Bruce, Ella Becroft and Tom Eason

Synopsis of the play

Dust Pilgrim is a tale about Panuelo, a young woman who seeks to escape her oppressive mother and find a future outside her desert wasteland home.

Characters

Panuelo

Mama

Panuelo's Father/The Skeleton, puppet manipulated by the actors

The 'Nuns'

The Ringmaster

Circus Performers

The Angel, the angel without wings, who is also trapped in the sideshow of 'freaks'

Prescribed recorded live performance 2: *The Wider Earth*

QUESTION 1

This content has been redacted for copyright purposes.

Redacted image can be viewed online:

Kush, V, *Diary of Discoveries* (artwork)

<https://kushfineart.com/artworks/categories/8/9434-diary-of-discoveries>

Evaluate how effectively key moments of dramatic action and meaning in *The Wider Earth* communicate the concept of exploration depicted in the image. Argue a position with reference to the manipulation of the elements of movement and mood in relation to the convention of fluid transformation.

OR

QUESTION 2

‘The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.’

Argue a position connecting the concept of adaptability depicted in the quote with key moments of dramatic action and meaning communicated in *The Wider Earth*. Justify your argument by evaluating the manipulation of the elements of symbol and space in relation to the convention of motif.

Contextual information

Producers: Dead Puppet Society, Trish Wadley Productions and Glass Half Full Productions

Creative

Writer, director and co-designer: David Morton

Creative producer: Nicholas Paine

Associate director: Matt Seery

Co-designer: Aaron Barton

Composers: Lior & Tony Buchen

Projection designer: Justin Harrison

Sound designer: Tony Brumpton

Associate sound designer: Brady Watkins

Original lighting designer: David Walters

UK and tour lighting designer: Lee Curran

Associate lighting designer: Christine Felmingham

Production

Technical director: Scott Barton

Company stage manager: Kat O'Halloran

Assistant stage manager: Savannah Mojidi

Head of lighting: Christopher Conway

Head mechanist: Alon Jones

Sound engineer/systems: Benn Sargood

Synopsis of the play

The Wider Earth tells the story of the voyage of the young, rebellious Charles Darwin and how this journey changed not only his ideas but his life.

Characters and cast

Emma Wedgwood: Frances Berry

Charles Darwin: Tom Conroy

John Clements Wickham: Alex Kaan

Reverend John Henslow/Sir John Herschel: Barbara Lowing

Robert Darwin/Richard Matthews: Kevin Spink

Robert FitzRoy: Anthony Standish

Jemmy Button: Jaime Ureta

Polly: Morgan Francis

Puppeteer: Liesel Zink

Voice of Old Darwin: Robert Coleby

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Prescribed recorded live performance 3: *Paper Sky*

QUESTION 1

This content has been redacted for copyright purposes.

Redacted image can be viewed online:
Redacted image is the top row (3 pictures) of *Viral* by Asaf Hanuka
<https://www.asafhanuka.com/the-realist/#/viral/>

Argue a position connecting the concept of significant change in the cartoon with key moments of dramatic action and meaning communicated in *Paper Sky*. Justify your argument by evaluating the manipulation of the elements of movement and mood in relation to the convention of juxtaposition.

OR

QUESTION 2

Redacted text can be viewed online:
Redacted wording is final verse
(‘Dreaming ... free at last’) from Baker,
L W, *The Ghost of my Past* <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/the-ghost-of-my-past>

This content has been redacted for copyright purposes.

Evaluate how effectively key moments of dramatic action and meaning in *Paper Sky* communicate the concept of renewal depicted in the poem. Argue a position with reference to the manipulation of tension and place in relation to the convention of dreamscape or dream sequence.

Contextual information

Directors: Kate Parker and Julie Nolan

Set designer: John Verryt

Costume designer: Elizabeth Whiting

Lighting designer: Jeremy Fern

Sound designer and musical director: Andrew McMillan

Touring cast: Shadon Meredith, Tai Berdinner-Blades, Elle Becroft, Renee Lyons and Matariki Whatarau

Original devising cast: Emmett Skilton, Julia Croft, Veronica Brady, Alison Bruce and Justin Haiu

Synopsis of the play

Henry is a writer who lives alone. He is writing a story until he is interrupted by a girl moving in next door.

Characters

Henry, a writer

Louise, girl next door

Lumina, Henry's story's heroine (puppet)

Ensemble/chorus (three actors)

References

Dust Pilgrim

Parker, K & Nolan, J (artistic directors) 2016, *Dust Pilgrim* (recording of live performance), Red Leap Theatre, Te Whaea Theatre, Wellington, <https://redleaptheatre.co.nz/production/dust-pilgrim/>.

Question 1

Redacted image of woman spinning: Rice, E *Freedom* <https://www.ellenrice.gallery/freedom-vol-4.html>

Question 2

Quote from Paul Coelho *The Pilgrimage* sourced at <https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/6186633-o-di-rio-de-um-mago>

The Wider Earth

Morton, D (writer, director and co-designer) 2022, *The Wider Earth* (recording of live performance), Dead Puppet Society in association with Trish Wadley Productions and Glass Half Full Productions. Princess Theatre.

Question 1

Redacted image: Kush, V, *Diary of Discoveries* (artwork) <https://kushfineart.com/artworks/categories/8/9434-diary-of-discoveries>

Question 2

Quote by Marcel Proust *The Prisoner*

Paper Sky

Nolan, J & Parker, K (directors) 2013, *Paper Sky*, Red Leap Theatre, (recording of live performance), The Turner Centre, Kerikeri, New Zealand, <http://redleaptheatre.co.nz/productions/paper-sky>

Question 1

Redacted image is the top row (3 pictures) of *Viral* by Asaf Hanuka <https://www.asafhanuka.com/the-realist/#/viral/>

Question 2

Redacted wording is final verse ('Dreaming ... free at last') from Baker, L W, *The Ghost of my Past* <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/the-ghost-of-my-past>



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