



RCM Examinations

Speech Arts History and Literature Theory Level 2 Sample Exam

Unless otherwise indicated, answer all questions directly on the examination paper in the spaces provided.

Confirmation Number

Maximum Marks

10

1. Choose the answer which best completes **EACH** of the following statements by placing the appropriate letter in the space provided.

_____ In play construction, the single action that initiates the major conflict of the play is called

- a. exposition
- b. denouement
- c. inciting incident
- d. peripetia

_____ At the heart of the causal plot structure is

- a. the identity of the characters
- b. the conflict of opposing forces
- c. poetry in which the persona of the narrator is not disclosed
- d. a device by which the playwright can flash backward and forward in time

_____ The *tiring house* was

- a. a dressing room
- b. a storage space beneath the stage
- c. the seating area for merchants
- d. the lounge for nobles

_____ Action that is created to ease emotional tension is called

- a. comic relief
- b. catharsis
- c. hubris
- d. psychological realism

_____ The English cycle plays of the Middle Ages hold particular interest because they were written in

- a. Latin, the language of the church
- b. French, the language of the elite
- c. Greek, the language of the classics
- d. English, the language of the people

continued.....

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Question 1 continued

_____ Which of the following is not an example of a typical medieval play?

- a. pageant plays
- b. cycle plays
- c. miracle plays
- d. history plays

_____ In Shakespeare's time, costuming

- a. strictly conformed to the time and theme of the play
- b. was not considered a significant aspect of the drama
- c. reflected no concern for historical realism
- d. reflected the conventions of classical theatre

_____ Which dramatic genre offers a wild, hilarious treatment of a trivial theme and is usually based on stock components like identical twins, switched identities and lovers in the closet?

- a. dark comedy
- b. melodrama
- c. farce
- d. tragicomedy

_____ The term for a play's abstracted intellectual content is

- a. thesis
- b. thought
- c. pathos
- d. onomatopoeia

_____ The final scene or scenes in a play devoted to tying up the loose ends after the climax is called the

- a. pathos
- b. catharsis
- c. anagnorisis
- d. denouement

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2. Mark each of the following statements as True (T) or False (F).

- _____ A play that uses broad physical action to create comedy is called a satire.
- _____ The opening in an Elizabethan stage floor was called a *trope*.
- _____ Exposition refers to the rising action of a plot.
- _____ *Hellmouth* was a stage piece designed to “swallow” sinners into the low staging area.
- _____ *Hubris* refers to the emotional release felt by an audience at the end of a tragedy.
- _____ The visual elements of a play—which are especially important when the play is performed—comprise the play’s *spectacle*.
- _____ The use of figurative language in a play often enriches dramatic dialogue.
- _____ Marlowe’s “mighty line” was heroic verse written in dactylic hexameter.
- _____ Renaissance drama came to an end in 1588 with the defeat of the Spanish Armada.
- _____ Comedy dealing with young lovers who are separated by an obstacle and who are united by the end of the play is called romantic comedy.

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3. Define **FIVE** of the following terms.

Morality play _____

Trope _____

Pageant Wagon _____

Climax _____

Orchestra _____

Vomitories _____

Chorus _____

Exposition _____

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4. Answer **ONE** of the following questions.
- a. Describe the contribution of the guilds in the production of medieval cycle plays.
- OR**
- b. Write a brief character analysis of the tragic hero in the Elizabethan tragedy you read.

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5. Write a fully developed essay on **THREE** of the following. Each essay is worth 20 marks.

- a. “The main purpose of tragedy is to provoke catharsis.”

Discuss the importance of catharsis in relation to the plays you have studied.

- b. Describe the major features of the Globe Theatre, and how you might use this stage for a performance of one of the Elizabethan plays on the list.

- c. Discuss fully the origin, nature, and functions of the Chorus in Greek drama. Illustrate your points with reference to one play.

- d. “Romantic comedies more often produce a feeling of well-being and sympathy at the end rather than strong laughs.”

Discuss this quotation with specific reference to any comedy you have studied.

- e. Discuss the dramatic function of poetry in a play of either Shakespeare or Marlowe.