
**NEW YORK STATE TEACHER
CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS™**

**FIELD 78: THEATRE
TEST FRAMEWORK**

June 2003

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Subarea

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**FIELD 78: THEATRE
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Creating, Performing, and Producing Theatre
Theatre Tools, Media, and Techniques
Theatre and Culture
Responding to and Analyzing Theatre
Theatre Tools, Media, and Techniques: Constructed-Response Assignment

The New York State theatre educator has the knowledge and skills to teach effectively in New York State public schools. The theatre educator knows the principles and processes associated with the creation of dramatic texts and theatrical productions. The theatre educator also understands the elements and skills used by directors, technical designers, and actors in various theatrical styles and traditions. The theatre educator understands the aesthetic connection between theatre and culture and how that connection influences people in their everyday lives. Finally, the theatre educator understands the basic principles of theatre criticism and analysis and can describe how the various components of theatrical productions are used to create meaning.

SUBAREA I—CREATING, PERFORMING, AND PRODUCING THEATRE

0001 Understand principles of playwriting and dramatic structure.

For example:

- identifying methods for imitating and communicating ideas, feelings, and experiences through improvisation, pantomime, play making, dramatic play, story dramatization, storytelling, role playing, guided playwriting, and script writing
- demonstrating knowledge of how improvisation can be used to generate ideas for stories, actions, characters, and environments for a script
- recognizing sources of ideas (e.g., personal stories, picture books, folklore, literature, history, imagination, information about other cultures) for improvisations and creative drama
- recognizing ways to communicate ideas and feelings (e.g., tension, suspense) through a script (e.g., plot, characters, setting, theme, mood)
- applying methods of refining scripts so story and meaning are conveyed to the audience
- identifying methods of formatting a script (e.g., recording dialogue and action; identifying stage settings, characters, acts, and scenes; providing stage directions)

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0002 Understand principles of acting.

For example:

- applying methods of analyzing a script to determine the physical, emotional, psychological, and social dimensions of characters, their relationships, and their environments to support creative choices
- demonstrating an understanding of methods for discovering, articulating, and justifying a character's motivation (e.g., subtext, action, beats)
- recognizing methods of interacting with others in role playing, improvisation, rehearsal, and performance
- recognizing methods for improving concentration, sense memory, and observation skills
- demonstrating knowledge of various classical and contemporary acting techniques, methods, and styles
- demonstrating an understanding of the concept of ensemble work

0003 Understand vocal techniques used in acting.

For example:

- demonstrating knowledge of ways to structure a warmup to prepare the voice
- applying techniques of sound production (e.g., articulation, enunciation, diction, phrasing, pitch, breath control, projection) to communicate meaning and develop characterization
- identifying ways to use language (e.g., pitch, tempo, tone, timing, pacing) to communicate feelings and ideas and develop characterization

0004 Understand body techniques used in acting.

For example:

- demonstrating knowledge of ways to structure a warmup to prepare the body
- applying techniques of movement to communicate meaning and develop characterization
- applying techniques of body position (e.g., posture, isolation, focus, sitting, standing) and gesture to communicate meaning and develop characterization
- demonstrating knowledge of how to combine vocal techniques with movement and body techniques to create believable characters

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0005 Understand principles of directing theatrical productions.

For example:

- evaluating methods of holding auditions (e.g., prepared monologues, cold readings, improvisation) and casting (e.g., casting according to learning objectives, nontraditional casting)
- applying methods of analyzing a script to determine the message of the work and how its component parts contribute to communication of that message to an audience
- demonstrating knowledge of techniques for creating a unified vision that is shared by all members of the production team (e.g., actors, designers, technicians)
- demonstrating an understanding of methods for guiding actors in creating roles and developing character relationships
- identifying the elements involved in staging theatrical performances (e.g., stage movement, blocking, focus, levels, balance)
- demonstrating knowledge of communication skills and social, group, and consensus-building skills
- demonstrating knowledge of techniques for creating a safe and positive working atmosphere that encourages and promotes collaboration, trust, and creativity

0006 Understand principles of producing theatrical performances.

For example:

- applying procedures for scheduling, budgeting, planning, promoting, and managing theatrical performances
- identifying the roles and responsibilities of individuals (e.g., stage manager, house manager) involved in theatrical productions
- recognizing methods of collaboration that develop a unified production concept
- demonstrating knowledge of legal issues (e.g., royalties, copyrights, liability, contracts) related to theatrical productions
- recognizing factors in selecting appropriate works that reflect an understanding of student development, audience, and production elements (e.g., performance space, number of participants)

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SUBAREA II—THEATRE TOOLS, MEDIA, AND TECHNIQUES

0007 Understand skills and techniques of theatrical lighting and sound production.

For example:

- demonstrating knowledge of basic lighting and sound technology, equipment, and supplies
- demonstrating knowledge of the basic physical properties of light, color, and sound
- selecting elements of lighting and sound to help create a particular environment, time, mood, and effect
- evaluating the effectiveness of lighting and sound choices in communicating the intent of a production
- demonstrating an understanding of the principles and elements of lighting and sound design for a theatrical production

0008 Understand methods of creating props and designing sets.

For example:

- identifying techniques, methods, and materials for creating props and designing sets to represent a particular environment, time, and mood
- demonstrating knowledge of the technical aspects of set construction (e.g., flats, drops, platforms, painting)
- evaluating the effectiveness of prop and set choices in communicating the intent of a production
- demonstrating an understanding of design principles and elements (e.g., space, color, line, shape, texture, repetition, balance, emphasis, contrast, unity) as they relate to set and prop design

0009 Understand methods of costume design and makeup application.

For example:

- identifying techniques, methods, and materials for creating costumes and applying makeup to suggest character and communicate the intent of a production
- demonstrating an understanding of design principles and elements (e.g., space, color, line, shape, texture, repetition, balance, emphasis, contrast, unity) as they relate to costumes and makeup
- recognizing production-related factors that affect costume and makeup design (e.g., cost, movement, quick-change requirements)

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0010 Understand how to develop an overall technical environment for theatrical productions.

For example:

- analyzing the interrelated nature of lighting, costumes, makeup, sound, props, scenery, acting, and direction in creating a unified theatrical production
- analyzing improvised and scripted scenes for technical requirements
- identifying safety issues involved with lighting, costumes, makeup, sound, props, and scenery
- demonstrating knowledge of various types of performance spaces (e.g., classroom, proscenium stage, arena, local theatre, dinner theatre) and analyzing how the characteristics of a performance space can influence production decisions
- demonstrating an understanding of the roles of stage managers, house managers, and crew

SUBAREA III—THEATRE AND CULTURE

0011 Understand the history of theatre in cultures throughout the world.

For example:

- analyzing the development of dramatic forms, production practices, and theatrical traditions across cultures and historical periods
- identifying and comparing the lives, works, and influences of representative dramatic artists in various cultures and historical periods
- comparing how universal characters, situations, and themes are treated in dramatic works from various cultures and historical periods
- comparing the aesthetic philosophies of dramatic works from different cultures and historical periods
- analyzing the relationships among cultural values, freedom of artistic expression, ethics, and artistic choices in various cultures and historical periods
- identifying the cultural and historical sources of U.S. theatre and musical theatre

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0012 Understand lifelong participation in the theatre.

For example:

- identifying the various vocations and avocations available in performing, producing, and promoting theatre
- demonstrating an understanding of the skills and preparation necessary for theatre vocations and avocations
- demonstrating knowledge of resources and opportunities for participation in theatre in the community

0013 Understand the role of theatre in daily life.

For example:

- analyzing the emotional and social effects of theatre on individuals, communities, and cultures
- explaining the meaning and social function of different types of theatrical productions
- recognizing how theatrical experiences relate to current personal, national, and international issues
- identifying and comparing various settings and reasons for creating and attending theatrical productions
- demonstrating knowledge of how social concepts (e.g., cooperation, communication, collaboration, consensus, self-esteem, risk taking, sympathy, empathy) apply in theatre and in life
- identifying ways of bringing the theatre experience to individuals from diverse backgrounds

SUBAREA IV—RESPONDING TO AND ANALYZING THEATRE

0014 Understand principles of theatre analysis and criticism.

For example:

- demonstrating knowledge of the techniques and vocabulary of theatre criticism
- analyzing artistic choices made in theatrical productions and suggesting alternatives
- analyzing the effects of publicity, study guides, programs, workshops, talkbacks, and the physical environment on an audience's response to and appreciation of a theatrical production
- identifying major themes in theatrical productions and analyzing how artistic choices support these themes

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0015 Understand research methods for use in creating a theatrical production.

For example:

- analyzing dramatic texts from cultural and historical perspectives to determine production requirements
- demonstrating knowledge of script analysis and its application to performance and production
- demonstrating knowledge of methods to research the background of a dramatic text
- applying research from print and nonprint resources to script-writing, acting, design, and directing choices
- identifying school and community resources available for research regarding theatrical productions (e.g., published scripted materials, print resources, electronic resources, current technologies, museums, theatre professionals)

0016 Understand the relationship of theatre to other art forms (e.g., music, dance, visual arts) and other disciplines.

For example:

- comparing the basic nature, functions, and elements of theatre, and themes, materials, and means of communicating used in theatre, with those aspects of other art forms
- analyzing how other art forms are used in theatrical productions
- comparing theatre with other types of dramatic productions (e.g., film, video, television, electronic media)
- explaining how theatrical experiences relate to other literary and artistic experiences
- comparing interpretations and expressions of ideas in several art forms within and across specific cultures and historical periods
- identifying how drama and theatre can be used to enhance the study of other subjects in the curriculum

SUBAREA V—THEATRE TOOLS, MEDIA, AND TECHNIQUES: CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE ASSIGNMENT

The content to be addressed by the constructed-response assignment is described in Subarea II, Objectives 7–10.