

Student D: examiner comments

Higher level

External assessment

Research investigation

Student D comments

	Marks awarded	Marks available
Criterion A	4	10
Criterion B	5	10
Criterion C	5	10
Criterion D	3	10
Total	17	40

General

Even after reading this research investigation it is unclear what this theatre practice actually is, what it looks like and what makes it a distinct form of puppetry. There is a good research question covering practice, piece of theatre and a particular aspect of this practice, but the research investigation does not address this question. The essay is badly structured and does not move from one point to another in a systematic and clear way, which makes it difficult to follow. Sources are not cited and the referencing system is unclear. The student does not stick to the point and information is included which is not related to the question or focus. The order of information seems to be random. It is unclear why this information is included other than to show what the student knows about the practice. The point is to keep to the focus area set by the question. There is little reference to the play and the three things, which are of utmost importance—the practice, the play, and the focus—are not covered in equal measure. This does not allow the reader to see how the information would be applied, which is key to the research investigation. The information is too general and as a reader I found it difficult to visualize the practice. The presentation of the appendix is poor. The critiquing of sources is neither particularly thorough nor useful.

Criterion A: Research skills

There is limited evidence of persistence. The sources have not been attributed in the body of the essay and the observations made are often unclear. There is some useful information but this investigation does not move to the next band because there is a lack of imagination.

Criterion B: Task relevance

A question has been identified and there is some concern and success in answering the question but this is not thorough and although appropriate it is too general, and the research is not properly applied to the play.

Criterion C: Presentation

The examiner here is faced with a quandary between awarding an achievement level of four or five. In the end it was awarded a five because the supporting material is not irrelevant and the presentation is adequate. The word length has been met and the register is appropriate. The sources are predictable and have not been properly attributed, but the other areas in this criterion have been satisfied, which is why it moves into this markband.

Criterion D: Critique of sources

Although on occasion sources are adequate and sometimes appropriate, they are generally inadequate and not specific enough. There is limited critiquing, and superficial and limited evidence of integration of sources into an argument.