

Students are required to produce a research investigation of 2,000–2,500 words with supporting visual materials.

Introduction

Students at HL and SL must undertake personal dramaturgical research into an unfamiliar theatrical practice for the production of a play or theatre piece. Students should select a specific aspect of a play or theatre piece from the chosen theatrical practice to research, and then formulate a research question to answer. Students should collect, edit and present their research to contribute to a realization of the play/theatre piece from the chosen theatrical practice.

Students at HL are also required to write a critique of the sources used in the research investigation. For the critique to be effective, these sources must be relevant to the specifics of the research undertaken. This critique should form a separate section at the end of the research investigation. It should clearly demonstrate the student's understanding of the sources used and their relevance to the investigation.

Content and format

The findings of the research investigation should be presented in an essay format with supporting visual and/or textual material. At HL the requirement is 2,000–2,500 words plus visual documentation and/or textual references. At SL the requirement is 1,500–1,750 words plus visual documentation and/or textual references. The linguistic register of the written work should be formal in nature, and the work should be clearly set out as a research investigation (that is, titled, sourced and attributed).

While working on the investigation, students should consult a range of sources. The bibliography accompanying the investigation must reflect the range and depth of the student's research and his or her understanding of what is useful to a theatre practitioner.

As part of the learning process, teachers can give advice to students on a first draft of the research investigation. Advice on improving the work can be given, but this first draft must not be heavily annotated or edited by the teacher. Constant drafting and redrafting is not allowed, and the next version handed to the teacher after the first draft must be the final one.