



National Certificate of Educational Achievement
TAUMATA MĀTAURANGA Ā-MOTU KUA TAEA

Exemplar for Internal Achievement Standard Drama Level 2

This exemplar supports assessment against:

Achievement Standard 91217

Examine the work of a playwright

An annotated exemplar is an extract of student evidence, with a commentary, to explain key aspects of the standard. It assists teachers to make assessment judgements at the grade boundaries.

New Zealand Qualifications Authority

To support internal assessment

	Grade Boundary: Low Excellence
1.	<p>For Excellence, the student needs to examine the work of a playwright showing a perceptive understanding.</p> <p>This involves making insightful connections between the play and the wider world of the play and the playwright.</p> <p>The student makes insightful connections between the play and its wider world when they consider how power and position influence change in <i>Our Country's Good</i>.</p> <p>The student notes that there is no change from Ross because it is not in his best interests (1). The student also touches on the conflict between the rigid class-based perspective of Ross and socially progressive perspective of Phillips (2).</p> <p>This is tied clearly to the writer's concerns and the thinking from the time in which the play was set, showing insightful connections between the work and the wider world of the play and playwright.</p> <p>The power relationship in the play is also analysed in terms of access to education. This comment suggests considerable insight because it not only explores what is evident but speculates about motivation for, and the impact of, change (3).</p> <p>The student draws links between the two plays focused on the use of magical or historical settings, and consequently implies that this is a key focus for Wertenbaker (4).</p> <p>For a more secure Excellence the student might also explore in more depth the socio-historical context for both of the plays.</p>

2.5a – Extracts only (the material contained here are examples of what evidence at each level of achievement might look like. They do not represent quantity but quality. Assessors need to be sure that the balance of evidence supports achievement at the specific level selected.

Playwright: Timberlake Wertenbaker

Concerns of playwright identified	Link to text	Detailed explanation and clarity	Insightful connections
<p>Portfolio Wertenbaker sets lots of her plays in historical or magical settings (4)</p>	<p>Our Country's Good is set in the 18th century and Arden City is set in modern London but it is focussed around a 'Garden' that is kind of like a parallel to the Forest of Arden from Shakespeare.</p>	<p>This kind of adds a bit of excitement and interest to the stories. It lets them have a kind of fairy tale quality where Wertenbaker can say important stuff but not get it all preachy.</p>	
<p>Hotseating (speaking as Wertenbaker)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Change: I believe that everyone can change for the better if given the chance. Everyone deserves a second chance. Just because someone has done something bad does not necessarily mean they are a bad person Ross and Phillips represent two different sides of an argument about human nature 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A great example of change is Liz. She started off as a scary, canting psychotic woman. You slowly see her begin to change as she is influenced by the play Ralph is directing that she is part of...she builds friendships and connections, caring for her new friends and doing what she can to protect them. I chose Liz to change because she came from the worst background but, with a little support and understanding it was shown that she wasn't as bad as everyone had thought 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Like when Ross is humiliating Mary, Liz and Sideways work together and begin rehearsing to distract him. Liz cannot carry on and broke down when the sound of her friend, Arscott, being tortured becomes too much. Ross thinks that convicts are like an underclass. He treats them like animals. ('Wag your tail, Bryant, bark').Phillips thinks that people are what they are made ('surely no one is born naturally cultured'). In the end, Phillips is right. (2) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I used Ross as a contrast to this. He is a strong, stubborn character who has authority throughout the colony. I didn't make him change because he had nothing to change for. He was in a 'good' position and wanted to hold on to his position and so he wasn't interested in helping the convicts become better people. (1) It kind of reflects what the split in thinking was at the time the play was set. You know there were all these arguments about human nature and 'the noble savage' and stuff. There was a growing belief that people could make more of themselves if given a chance. It's not hard to see what my belief about this is, is it. I think it is true for today as well.
<p>Class discussion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The discussion focuses on who can read and who cannot. The teacher suggests that one of the themes that Wertenbaker 			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> So- like, knowledge is power then. If you let the convicts learn to read and get educated then they won't want to do all the dirty work needed to build a colony. They might start

<p>is interested in is Identity.</p>			<p>asking why it's them digging the ditch and someone else standing over them with the whip. They will want someone else to do it or they might want more of a share of what they make? Is that why Ross is so against the play? (3)</p> <p>2- Oh well that makes sense doesn't it. I mean, in Arden City everyone who goes to the allotments finds who they <u>really</u> are and in Our Country's Good they all go to Australia and most of them find that they are something different to what they thought they were. They had more choices and could change their lives. They sort of found out who they were as well, away from the rules of the outside world.</p>
<p>Scene Act 2 Sc 10. This scene shows the important theme of change that Wertebaker shows through her plays.</p>	<p>1- Liz changes her voice and vocabulary.</p> <p>2- Ralph has also changed because of his contact with the convicts. He no longer thinks of them as low graded convicts but as actual reformed human beings</p>	<p>1- At the end of this scene, Liz says 'Your excellency, I will endeavour to speak Mr Farquhar's lines with the elegance and clarity their own worth commands'. This compares to her language earlier in the play ('Luck, don't know the word. Shifts its bob when I come near'.) And shows she has changed from outspoken, insane convict to a more educated, respectful and loyal human being. (3)</p> <p>2- He can now relate to and understand them, as shown in the quote 'She won't speak sir, because of the convict code of honour. She doesn't want to beg for her life</p>	<p>1- It's kind of like she finds her voice. She starts off silent and then begins to speak in short sentences but then her final line (3) It really shows is so proper. how she has changed because now she knows what she says matters.</p>

	Grade Boundary: High Merit
2.	<p>For Merit, the student needs to examine the work of a playwright showing an informed understanding.</p> <p>This involves giving detailed explanations and providing examples to illustrate statements. Examples are to be taken from the texts to articulate the playwright's ideas in detail and with clarity.</p> <p>The evidence from the range of activities clearly shows that this student has an informed understanding of the work of the playwright, in terms of the two plays considered (<i>Our Country's Good</i> and <i>Arden City</i>). They discuss the playwright's concerns in detail and with clarity. Discussion is supported with clear examples and quotes (1).</p> <p>During the 'hot seating' exercise, the student draws a link between the action of the plot, the author's intent and its link to the contemporary context (2).</p> <p>Similarly, the student speculates, in class discussion, that Wertebaker explores the theme of 'home' and what makes something home, because she moved around a lot (3).</p> <p>To reach Excellence, the student could demonstrate perceptiveness by exploring in more depth the meanings that are being communicated and how they are being communicated.</p>

2.5a – Extracts only (the material contained here are examples of what evidence at each level of achievement might look like. They do not represent quantity but quality. Assessors need to be sure that the balance of evidence supports achievement at the specific level selected.

Playwright: Timberlake Wertenbaker

Concerns of playwright identified	Link to text	Detailed explanation and clarity	Insightful connections
Portfolio 1- Wertenbaker used her plays to communicate political ideas 2- Continues 3- Wertenbaker uses settings that were historical or tie in to mythology.	1- In Our Country's Good, she talks about how people are treated in the convict colony in Australia 2- In Arden City she is making a statement about how people's rights are being taken away from them by the government. 3- Arden City is based around the story of 'As you like it' by William Shakespeare.	1- But she is really talking about how we treat people in prisons now. Should we just punish them or help them change? 2- The allotments are a good place but they are being taken away because the government believes that profit and spectator sport is more important than natural life or healthy living 3- It's based in a garden – like the Forest of Arden and it has main characters called Orlando and Rosie (Rosalind). This makes it seem more magical and fun. (1)	
Hot seating (as Wertenbaker) I think that the possibility of change is one of the things that I really want people to understand.	1- I set Our Country's Good in Australia when it was a prison colony because I wanted to show how people aren't totally bad and how they can change if they want to.	I mean, when Ralph puts on the play, it gives the convicts a chance to be something other than bad. They get a bit of respect from Ralph and, eventually, from their audience. Of course, Ross doesn't change because he doesn't want to – why should he? (2)	1- The same still applies to modern times. Given opportunity any criminals can change – they just have to want to do so. (2)
Class discussion Teacher initiates discussion on the idea of home in the plays	Yeah – they all want to go home. They think they are only in Australia for 7 years or whatever.	Like Wisehammer says 'Seven years and I'll go back' and Caesar wants to go back to Madagascar. It's kind of the same in Arden City too – the girls and Orlando have to leave 'home' and go to the allotments. They kind of find a 'home' there (3)	Do you reckon this had to do with Wertenbaker moving around a lot in her life?
Scene We chose Act 2 sc10 because there are a lot of themes dealt with in this scene.	One of the themes is Change. It's really clear in how Liz reacts in this scene.	Liz starts off saying nothing because she doesn't believe anything will save her. There will be no change to the way things always go. But when she finally realises that she might live, she answers in very nice speech. 'Your excellency, I will endeavour to speak Mr Farquhar's Lines with the elegance and clarity their own worth commands'. This shows she and her beliefs have changed. (1)	

	Grade Boundary: Low Merit
3	<p>For Merit, the student needs to examine the work of a playwright showing an informed understanding.</p> <p>This involves giving detailed explanations and providing examples to illustrate statements. Examples are to be taken from the texts to articulate the playwright's ideas in detail and with clarity.</p> <p>The student has explored the concerns of the playwright of <i>Our Country's Good</i> and <i>Arden City</i> with respect to style and structure as well as the common and contrasting ideas (1). Evidence has been collected, and focuses largely on <i>Our Country's Good</i>. There is some evidence of supporting detail and clarity of explanation. Examples have been employed to draw out ideas (2).</p> <p>For a more secure Merit, the student could expand on their consideration what the playwright is trying to communicate to the audience, for example: If there is a movement from technology to natural settings within the play, what is the audience meant to understand from this and why?</p> <p>The student also needs to ensure that they are considering the features that characterise Wertenbaker's concerns, context and or style as demonstrated across the work in a more informed manner.</p>

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Playwright: Timberlake Wertenbaker

Concerns of playwright identified	Link to text	Detailed explanation, examples and clarity	Insightful connections
<p>Portfolio</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Structure 2- Style: The two plays show that things can change by the way things happen and look in the play. 3- Concerns – I think that Wertenbaker shows, in OCG, that much punishment is inflicted on those that it is not due to. 4- While neither play is strictly 'feminist' they both share many feminist features. (1) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Both plays follow a linear structure. 2- Our Country's Good moves from dark to light. It starts off gloomy and miserable but ends up in a good mood, light with happy colours. Arden City starts with technology and ends with natural settings. (1) 3- Ross humiliates Dabby and Mary in front of their co cast, though he does not physically abuse them. Wishehammer showed Arscott his folly at buying the map. He did, however unintentionally, imply he was thick. 4- Both plays have scenes shown from the point of view of women. Both offer a female perspective and both plays are by a woman writer. (1) 		
<p>Hot seating (speaking as Wertenbaker) When one experience is drastically changed or taken away this can reflect our entire view on any following events. This change in the interpretation of events will often precede a change in personality. (1)</p>	<p>This can be seen in OCG in many characters but a prime example is Liz Morden.</p>	<p>At the start she is a prisoner that would do nothing if nothing was offered in return. She enjoyed wielding her power over other prisoners. However once landed in Australia and the experience of the play was offered, she found there was less of a gap between the prisoners and the guards. Her perspective began to change. Liz joins in to distract from Ross' humiliation of Mary and Dabby. She also broke down as a whipping was</p>	

		undertaken – showing she had gained a sense of empathy. It's the same in Arden City, Oliver changes because he falls in love. (2)	
Class discussion			
Scene I chose to do this scene (II. x) because it has a strong theme of hope. It also talks about themes of justice and of change (1)	When Liz finally speaks out about the events that could kill her ,it is all about hope In this scene Ralph, Phillip, Collins, Campbell and Ross are talking about whether or not Liz is guilty and whether she is condemned to be hanged	This shows she has lost her indifference to life or death and has, with the play, found a will to live. The line 'Your excellency, I will endeavour to speak Mr Farquhar's lines with the elegance and clarity their worth commands' shows that she now has a new positive perspective on life. (2) Ralph and Phillip are trying to get the truth and finalise the best for Liz. Ross, on the other hand, feels that Liz's story contradicts 'his' soldiers, and that the soldiers should be believed over the convicts, even if they are incorrect. Phillips wants justice in the situation and so coaxes Liz to speak. Campbell has always sided against the convicts. In this scene we see that he has had a change of heart, believing the play to be beneficial and entertaining. (2)	

	Grade Boundary: High Achieved
4.	<p>For Achieved, the student needs to examine the work of a playwright.</p> <p>This involves exploring the concerns of the playwright, and where and how they are expressed in their work. It also involves exploring one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the social and/or historical world of the playwright as it relates to the chosen texts • the common and/or contrasting ideas and concerns evident in the plays • the style, structure and purpose of the plays • the performance space and its influence on the plays. <p>Extracts from two or more texts must be examined.</p> <p>This student has explored the concerns of the playwright for <i>Our Country's Good</i> and <i>Arden City</i> (1), and collected evidence from a range of activities showing where and how they are expressed in their work. The student has begun to unpack not only what happened but how it happened (2). There is a movement towards providing supporting detail that will enhance clarity (3).</p> <p>To reach Merit, the student could demonstrate informed understanding by providing a more detailed explanation of the points made. They need to consider not only what and where but why.</p>

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Grade level: High A

Playwright: Timberlake Wertenbaker

Concerns of playwright identified	Link to text	Detailed explanation and clarity	Insightful connections
<p>Portfolio</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Style: Our two plays seem to have the same kind of journey in them. This is shown by the change in setting and lights Concerns OCG shows that given the opportunity, criminals can change. The same still applies to modern times. Concerns AC shows the governments believes profit and spectator sports are more important than natural life/ healthy living Concerns: Hope (1) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> OCG moves from dark to light. It starts off gloomy and miserable , moves up through moderate moods and ends up in happy bright colours, bright lights and cheerful music. AC is similar. It move from civilised to natural. Starting with urban metal and plastic and moving through wooden scenery and ending in the natural forest and plants. When Liz eventually does speak, she starts off in simple words and short sentences but by the end of the scene she is speaking in a high class and formal manner. The people on the allotments are being driven off to make room for a concrete walkway. Lieutenant Clark is hopeful that Liz will speak and save herself. Liz is hopeful that she will be able to perform the play and Major Ross is hopeful he will have Liz Morden hung (2) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> This shows the play has already had a significant effect on one who was once considered 'scum of the earth'. (3) 	
<p>Hot seating (speaking as Wertenbaker) I wanted to people to understand how power could change</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lots of people change in Our country's Good. Liz Morden, Ralph, Campbell... (2) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The chance to do something good and put on a play helps Liz to change. She becomes hopeful. (3) 	
<p>Class discussion The teacher asks questions around Wertenbakera's reasons for writing Arden City</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Well, it's like it says at the front of the book – She wanted to write something that her daughter rated but she was also upset at what was happening to that allotment in London. 		
<p>Scene</p>			

	Grade Boundary: Low Achieved
5.	<p>For Achieved, the student needs to examine the work of a playwright.</p> <p>This involves exploring the concerns of the playwright, and where and how they are expressed in their work. It also involves exploring one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the social and/or historical world of the playwright as it relates to the chosen texts • the common and/or contrasting ideas and concerns evident in the plays • the style, structure and purpose of the plays • the performance space and its influence on the plays. <p>Extracts from two or more texts must be examined.</p> <p>This student has explored some of the concerns of the playwright for <i>Our Country's Good</i> and <i>Arden City</i>, and indicated where they are expressed in their work (1). There is some effort to find commonality between the two texts examined (2).</p> <p>For a more secure Achieved, the student could examine and further clarify how the playwright articulates their concerns. Deeper examination of the actual basis of the writers' concerns would also support a more consolidated grade.</p>

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Playwright: Timberlake Wertenbaker

Concerns of playwright identified	Link to text	Detailed explanation and clarity	Insightful connections
<p>Portfolio</p> <p>1- In the play 'Our Country's Good', Timberlake Wertenbaker uses punishment as one of the main themes.</p> <p>2- Wertenbaker writes political plays (1)</p>	<p>1- She uses punishment because it is probably the biggest problem/ conflict in the play. In the 17 hundreds brutal hard punishments were given for the smallest things. In the play the 'convicts' have been sent to Australia for 7 years. (1)</p> <p>2- Our Country's Good is a political play about change and how people can change if you let them and Arden City is a political play because it shows the corruption that progress can cause. (2)</p> <p>3- Both plays share similarities between explaining how we treat people (OCG) and how we treat our environment (AC) (1)</p>		
<p>Hot seating (speaking as Wertenbaker)</p> <p>1- Yes I want people to learn things from my plays.</p> <p>2- I wanted to write something that my daughter would be interested in.</p>	<p>1- I do this in Arden City. I want to show we are ruining the environment just for the Olympics</p> <p>2- I set Arden City in the present but had girls playing boys and love stories to make it interesting to her age group.</p>		
<p>Class discussion</p> <p>1- Teacher discusses the idea of change within the plays</p>	<p>1- Yeah – Like Liz – she changed and got less psycho and started to care about the others in the cast. And that's like Oliver too (from AC). He fell in love and became nicer.</p>		
<p>Scene</p>			

	Grade Boundary: High Not Achieved
6.	<p>For Achieved, the student needs to examine the work of a playwright.</p> <p>This involves exploring the concerns of the playwright, and where and how they are expressed in their work. It also involves exploring one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the social and/or historical world of the playwright as it relates to the chosen texts • the common and/or contrasting ideas and concerns evident in the plays • the style, structure and purpose of the plays • the performance space and its influence on the plays. <p>Extracts from two or more texts must be examined.</p> <p>This student has drawn from a range of activities, indicating a generalised awareness of some of the features of the text and the concerns of the playwright (1). There is some effort to link what concerns are noted to the text (2).</p> <p>To reach Achieved, the student needs to clarify their understanding of the concerns of the writer and the features of their writing. They need to then seek out examples of these concerns and features in the text itself and use this information to support the communication of their understanding of the writer's work.</p>

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Playwright: Timberlake Wertenbaker

Concerns of playwright identified	Link to text	Detailed explanation and clarity	Insightful connections
<p>Portfolio Concerns (Our Country's Good). I think the theme is to treat people better then they will stop breaking the law. (1)</p> <p>Concerns- (Arden City) This play shows that some people are rich and some aren't, the same as they are in Our Country's Good. The themes are running away and changing into a being a boy to protect your identity. (1)</p> <p>Style: The play, a modern retelling of Shakespeare's 'As you like it', is about two cousins... (Plot summary follows) (1)</p>			
<p>Hot seating (speaking as Wertenbaker) Teacher asks what students think are key concerns of Wertenbaker. Student responds: She really doesn't like people using their power over other people.</p>			
<p>Class discussion Scene Our scene is II.x. We chose this because it is about hope – which is a theme of the play</p>	<p>Liz hopes she will not be hung in this Scene (2)</p>		