Captivate
EDUCATION

Media

Question and Answer Book

Practice examination 1 – 2027

Student name _____

Teacher _____

- Reading time is 15 minutes
- Writing time is 2 hours

Materials supplied

- Question and Answer Book

Instructions

- Use the additional space at the end of this book if you need extra space to complete an answer.

Students are not permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any unauthorised electronic devices into the examination room.

Contents

Section A (10 questions, 50 marks)

Section B (2 questions, 30 marks)

Practice material in the layout of the 2025 VCAA paper – generated 2027. Not a VCAA examination.

SAMPLE

Section A

Instructions

- Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.
- Write your responses in English.

Question 1 (3 marks)

Narratives and their contexts

Film still placeholder. A still from *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (1920): the somnambulist Cesare, in black, carrying Jane along a jagged, painted rooftop; harsh high-contrast lighting, distorted expressionist set with no right angles, the figures framed in a wide shot against a painted sky. Replace with a public-domain still of this shot before printing.

Source: *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*, film, Robert Wiene (dir.), Decla-Bioscop, Germany, 1920

Describe how **one** media code conveys meaning in the film still from *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (1920) shown above. 3 marks

SAMPLE

Question 2 (6 marks)

Identify the media narrative that you have studied this year for 'Narratives and their contexts'.
You **must** use this media narrative to respond to **Questions 2 and 3**.

Media narrative _____

Identify **one** narrative convention used in the media narrative.

Narrative convention _____

Analyse how **two** media codes work together to develop this narrative convention in **one** specific moment, frame or sequence of the media narrative. 6 marks

SAMPLE

Question 3 (7 marks)

Analyse how an audience consuming the media narrative in a context different from the one in which it was produced may engage with and read **one** aspect of the narrative. 7 marks

SAMPLE

Captivate
EDUCATION

Media

Marking scheme – teacher copy

Practice examination 1 – 2027

Not for distribution to students.

Section	Questions	Marks available	Marks awarded
Section A	10	50	
Section B	2	30	
Total		**80**	

Section A

SAMPLE

Question 1. (3 marks)

*Describe how **one** media code conveys meaning in the film still from The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (1920) shown above.*

To be awarded full marks, students were required to:

Students were required to describe how one media code conveys meaning in the still from *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (1920): name a specific code, describe how it is used in the still, and state the meaning it conveys.

Common errors included:

- naming a code without describing how it was applied in the still
- describing several codes superficially instead of one in detail
- using general language rather than media-specific language

Mark allocation: 1 mark for precise identification of one media code (e.g. mise en scene, lighting, camera, visual composition); 1 mark for describing how the code is applied in the still; 1 mark for the meaning conveyed to the audience.

Responses could have included:

- precise identification of one code (e.g. 'mise en scene', 'lighting') rather than a general term such as 'the visuals'
- a description tied to what is visible in the still — the painted, distorted rooftops with no right angles; the harsh contrast of the black-clad figure against the pale sky; the wide framing that dwarfs the figures
- a clear statement of meaning — instability and madness, the threat Cesare poses, the audience's disorientation

Sample full-mark response

> *The following is an example of a high-scoring response (written for a narrative or example that students are not required to have studied).*
>
> The code of mise en scene is used through the painted, distorted set: the rooftop Cesare crosses is built from jagged, leaning planes with no right angles and shadows painted directly onto the walls. Because nothing in the frame is stable or realistic, the setting externalises the disordered mind of the narrator and positions the audience to feel that the world of the film — and the figure carrying Jane — is threatening and unhinged.

SAMPLE

Question 2. (6 marks)

*Analyse how **two** media codes work together to develop this narrative convention in **one** specific moment, frame or sequence of the media narrative.*

To be awarded full marks, students were required to:

Students were required to identify one narrative convention used in their media narrative and analyse how two media codes work together to develop that convention in one specific moment, frame or sequence.

Common errors included:

- identifying a code ('camera') or a genre ('horror') as the narrative convention
- listing the two codes separately without analysing how they work together
- discussing the whole narrative rather than one moment, frame or sequence

Mark allocation: This question was **marked holistically** against descriptors rather than a point tally. **High**: a correctly identified narrative convention (character establishment or development, a character arc, cause and effect, point of view, the structuring of time, setting, narrative structure); two named codes located in one clearly bounded moment, frame or sequence; an analysis of how the two codes interact with each other to build the convention, with precise media language. **Mid**: a correct convention and two codes, but the codes treated separately or the moment described in general terms; appropriate rather than precise language. **Low**: a code or a genre offered as the convention; codes outlined without connection to the convention; discussion of the narrative in general rather than a specific moment.

Responses could have included:

- a narrative convention named in study-design terms, with a code or genre explicitly not substituted for it
- a bounded moment ('the diner scene', 'the opening long take') rather than 'throughout the film'
- an explanation of how each code shapes the other — for example, how a low-key lighting choice is only legible because of where the camera places the character — and how the combination develops the convention

Sample full-mark response

> *The following is an example of a high-scoring response (written for a narrative or example that students are not required to have studied).*
>
> Narrative convention: character establishment. In the opening sequence of The Dry (Robert Connolly, 2020), camera and sound work together to establish Aaron Falk as an outsider returning to a hostile place. The camera holds Falk in a long lens from a distance as he walks through the dusty town, compressing him against the shopfronts so that he appears small and watched; at the same time the soundtrack strips out the ambient town noise and leaves only his footsteps and the hum of insects. Neither code would establish the character alone: the isolating framing tells us he does not belong, while the hollowed-out sound tells us the town has gone silent for him. Together

SAMPLE