

Exam 1 review

For the exam, you must bring at least 2 blue books with you. I will not accept the exam on notebook paper.

After studying each chapter, you should be able to:

Introduction

- Trace the origins of theatre and drama.
- Differentiate between theatre and ritual.
- Describe reasons for the prohibition of theatre in cultures throughout history.
- Identify elements used in reconstructing theatre history.
- Differentiate among approaches to the study of theatre history.

Chapter 1

- Identify the origins of theatre and drama in Greece.
- Compare and contrast Greek tragic playwrights.
- Identify the role of the chorus in Greek plays.
- Apply Aristotle's six elements of drama to the analysis of a play, like maybe one we have read.
- Compare and contrast old and new comedy.
- Sketch a ground plan of Greek theatre, identifying major elements.
- Describe changes to theatrical production and architecture in the Hellenistic Age.

Chapter 2

- Identify major writers and conventions of Roman comedy.
- Identify tragic playwrights and the role of tragedy in Roman theatre.
- Compare and contrast popular entertainment and theatre.
- Identify the role of the actor in Roman theatre.
- Identify the characteristics of the theatre building and scenic elements in Roman theatre.

Chapter 3

- Identify the conventions of Sanskrit drama.
- Compare and contrast theatre in the Yuan and Ming Dynasties in China.
- Compare and contrast noh and kabuki.
- Identify the conventions of bunraku.
- Identify the conventions of shadow plays in Southeast Asia.

Chapter 4

- Describe the development and production of liturgical drama.
- Describe the development of religious, vernacular drama.
- Compare and contrast mystery and morality plays.
- Describe secular theatre of the Middle Ages.
- Trace the decline of religious theatre in the Middle Ages.

Chapter 5

- Identify the conventions of the commedia dell'arte.*
- Compare and contrast the different types of Renaissance drama in Italy.
- Identify the neoclassical ideals, including decorum, verisimilitude, and the unities of time, place and action.
- Differentiate between descriptive and prescriptive criticism.
- Identify the prominent theater buildings and innovative scenic elements in Renaissance Italy.

