Glamorgan Drama League Marking guidelines for Musical Appraisals. Version: March 2020

Stage Presentation	Direction	Musical Direction	Choreography	Acting	Dramatic Achievement
1-2	1 - 4	1-3	1-3	1 - 6	1 - 2
 Settings and furnishings are inappropriate Poor understanding of interaction of skills, with no overall design concept Where used, lighting, sound, make up and costume are inappropriate 	 Weak understanding or interpretation of text No evidence of the creation of an ensemble piece Use of stage groupings and movement of the actors are inappropriate, lacking clear motivation Pacing is inadequate No attention to the shape of the piece 	 Poorly rehearsed, missed cues, uncertain performance Poor projection and diction Out of time with the music 	 Poor Expressions: T Low level of technical ability Not very well rehearsed or executed Dancers not coordinated where they needed to be together Clear lack of confidence in all dances Poor design and lack of imagination of choreography 	 Characterisation is superficial; communication with the audience is fleeting Weak support between cast members Poor use of movement and/or vocal skills Performances lack confidence and are hesitant 	 Poor communication with the audience. Scant realisation of text No dramatic impact Weak interaction of actors
3-4	5-9	4-6	4-6	7-12	3 - 4
 The settings and furnishings are pedestrian Little understanding of interaction of skills with limited overall design concept Where used, lighting, sound, make up and costume are pedestrian and/or limited in execution 	 Little creativity and understanding of text Little evidence of the creation of an ensemble piece Use of stage groupings and movement of the actors are pedestrian and lack clear motivation. Pacing has little dynamic range Little attention to the shape of the piece 	 Some nice performances musically but not consistent across the piece Occasionally not projecting enough Obviously staring at the MD for cues Unclear diction on occasions 	 A few expressive faces and attempts to sell the dance Reasonable or effective movement The dancers sometimes work together A total of one or two pieces of movement during the show, but done reasonably well Simple choreography, maybe not very challenging 	 Characterisation is pedestrian; not sustained Little support between cast members Little appropriate use of movement and/or vocal skills At times performers are confident 	 Little communication with the audience Little interpretation of text Little dramatic impact Limited interaction between actors
5-6	10-13	7-9	7-9	13-18	5- 6
 The settings and furnishings are acceptable but unimaginative Some understanding of interaction of skills within a reasonable overall design concept Where used, lighting, sound, make up and costume are reasonable and just acceptable 	 Some creativity and understanding of text Some evidence of the creation of an ensemble piece Use of stage groupings and movement of the actors are reasonable with some clear motivation. Pacing is reasonable Some attention to the shape of the piece 	 Good band or backing music with good harmonies from chorus Reasonable balance of volume between band and performers Good cue taking and using peripheral vision to take cues Able to understand some of the lyrics Principals well rehearsed and in-tune 	 Some expressive faces and commitment to the dance A total of one or two pieces of movement during the show, but done very well NB This is the highest mark you should give for a musical with little choreography and a small number of dances (1-2) Well executed and reasonable timing. Interesting chorography with variety and different pace Technically a little challenging Good ensemble togetherness 	 Characterisation is reasonable Some audience awareness Some support between cast members Some appropriate use of movement and/or vocal skills Performers are reasonably confident 	 Some communication with the audience Acceptable interpretation of the text Adequate dramatic impact Occasional interaction between the actors
7-8	14-	10-12	10-12	19-24	7 - 8

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 Settings and furnishings are creativity appropriate Good understanding of interaction of skills within a good overall design concept Where used, lighting, sound, make up and costume are well conceived and successfully executed 	 A creative approach to the text that is communicated well to the audience An ensemble piece created Good command of stage groupings; movement of the actors displays a good understanding of motivation. Pacing is appropriate Shaping of the piece is confident and successful 	 Good sound from chorus Good sounding band/ orchestra/ backing music Consistent and in-tune principals Conveying meaning and sub- text of songs well On time and in time musically Fairly confident in projection 	 Nice expression from cast and dancers with commitment to the number Effective chorography suitable to the era and overall ability of the cast Some challenging and/or interesting choreography Good energy from cast and chorus Well rehearsed and confident Props, if used, used well 	 Characterisation is secure and creative Performers are very aware of audience Clear evidence of positive support between members of the cast Positive command and control of appropriate movement and/or vocal skills The actors perform with confidence 	 Good communication with the audience Confident realisation and interpretation of the text Creative and positive dramatic impact Good interaction between actors
 9-10 Settings and furnishings enhance the production very creatively and indicate 'place' and 'period' with great immediacy Excellent understanding of interaction of skills Technical skills employed underpin the production very creatively to create mood and atmosphere. They are executed with great precision Design skills employed have a strong impact on the audience and enhance the attributes of the characters 	 29 - 35 Excellent creative approach to the production and the text is interpreted with depth and insight Ensemble playing is secure and impressive Excellent command of effective stage groupings and movement is underpinned by a firm understanding of motivation. Pacing is relentlessly secure and the shaping of the piece demonstrates an excellent understanding of theatrical dynamics 	 13-15 Excellent vocal performances from all principals and chorus Good band/orchestra with good balance between singers and music Exciting sound and harmonies across the piece Confident performance with everyone having good stage presence Really selling the number Great projection and clarity of vocals 	 13-15 Total commitment and consistency in character Facial expression, gesture and body language in sync with the show and it's characters Exciting choreography with high energy Some technical challenges in the dancing and choreography The dancers/ chorus have hand-body-leg coordination and are synced with the music/song. Well rehearsed and 	 25-30 Characterisation is sensitive and has flair Thorough awareness of audience Cast members work with and for each other in an impressive and effective manner Impressive command of appropriate movement and/or vocal skills The actors demonstrate an excellent understanding of theatre skills within their totally convincing performances 	 9 - 10 Creatively successful performance communicated to audience Sensitive, imaginative realisation and interpretation of text Expertise of the company results in highly effective dramatic impact Generous, unselfish and theatrical artistry ensures positive interaction between the actors
			confident principals and chorusEffective use of props, effects in the dance		

	Presentation	Direction	Music	Choreography	Acting	Dram Ach	Total
	10	20	15	15	30	10	100
Poor	1-2	1-4	1-3	1-3	1-6	1-2	6-20
Limited	3-4	5-8	4-6	4-6	7-12	3-4	26-40
Reasonable/adequate	5-6	9-12	7-9	7-9	13-18	5-6	46-67
Good	7-8	13-16	10-12	10-12	19-24	7-8	66-80
Very Good	19-10	17-20	13-15	13-15	25-30	9-10	96-100