

## Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL™)

### FIELD 45: THEATER TEST OBJECTIVES

Subarea	Multiple-Choice	Range of Objectives	Approximate Test Weighting
I.	Playwriting, Performance, and Direction of Dramatic Works	01–03	30%
II.	Design, Production, and Management of Dramatic Works	04–05	15%
III.	Theater History and Dramatic Literature	06–09	25%
IV.	Theater Education	10–11	<u>10%</u>
			<b>80%</b>
	<b>Open-Response</b>		
V.	Integration of Knowledge and Understanding	12	<b>20%</b>

Copyright © 2003 by the Massachusetts Department of Education

"Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure" and "MTEL" are trademarks of the Massachusetts Department of Education and National Evaluation Systems, Inc. (NES®).

"NES®" and its logo are registered trademarks of National Evaluation Systems, Inc.™

This document may not be reproduced for commercial use but may be copied for educational purposes.

**Effective after September 1, 2003**

**Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL™)  
Test Objectives  
Field 45: Theater**

**SUBAREAS:**

PLAYWRITING, PERFORMANCE, AND DIRECTION OF DRAMATIC WORKS  
DESIGN, PRODUCTION, AND MANAGEMENT OF DRAMATIC WORKS  
THEATER HISTORY AND DRAMATIC LITERATURE  
THEATER EDUCATION  
INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

**PLAYWRITING, PERFORMANCE, AND DIRECTION OF DRAMATIC WORKS [30%]**

**0001 Understand principles of playwriting and dramatic structure.**

For example: principles and skills involved in writing and adapting a play; use of various techniques (e.g., multiple methods of research/information gathering, playmaking, self-scripting, improvisation) for generating ideas for stories, actions, characters, and dramatic environments; ways of structuring a script to communicate ideas and feelings (e.g., plot, characters, setting, theme, mood); and use of various dramatic styles, forms, and genres.

**0002 Understand principles of acting.**

For example: characteristics associated with historical styles of acting; methods and characteristics associated with modern and contemporary actor training; techniques for developing actors' tools (i.e., voice, body, and mind); characterization techniques; and uses and techniques of improvisation.

**0003 Understand principles of directing.**

For example: the roles and functions of the director; script selection; methods for audition and casting; concept and design decisions; script analysis; staging a production; and effective collaboration with cast, production staff, and community.

## **Field 45: Theater Test Objectives**

### **DESIGN, PRODUCTION, AND MANAGEMENT OF DRAMATIC WORKS [15%]**

#### **0004 Understand principles of producing and managing theatrical performances.**

For example: roles and responsibilities of individuals involved in theatrical management (e.g., producer, stage manager, technical director); factors and considerations involved in selecting a play for theatrical production; legal issues (e.g., royalties, copyrights, liability, contracts, safety) related to theatrical producing; procedures for selecting artistic and technical staff; procedures for scheduling, budgeting, planning, promoting, and managing theatrical productions.

#### **0005 Understand set, costume, and lighting design and execution.**

For example: essential design principles and elements as they relate to theater (e.g., space, color, line, shape, texture, repetition, balance, emphasis, contrast, unity); historical periods and styles; fundamentals of stagecraft (e.g., set, costume, property, and mask construction; hang/focus of lighting instruments; sound production; makeup; safety); and the application of principles of design and production in various situations.

### **THEATER HISTORY AND DRAMATIC LITERATURE [25%]**

#### **0006 Understand the history of drama and theater.**

For example: the various purposes of theater throughout history; basic elements of a theatrical performance; types and characteristics of various dramatic forms; and the relationship of cultural, economic, political, and other factors to theater.

#### **0007 Understand British and other European dramatic literature from ancient times through the present.**

For example: characteristics of European theater and dramatic literature from the classical age through the present; major playwrights and their works; prominent developments in European theatrical performance and production; and major themes, characteristics, and developments in British and other European drama of different periods.

#### **0008 Understand the dramatic literature of the United States.**

For example: characteristics of American theater and dramatic literature; major American playwrights (e.g., O'Neill, Miller, A. Wilson, Hansberry, Wilder, Mamet) and their works; prominent individuals and developments in American theatrical performance and production; and themes, characteristics, and developments in American drama through the present.

## Field 45: Theater Test Objectives

### **0009 Understand dramatic literature from other cultural traditions.**

For example: characteristics of theater and dramatic literature of Africa, Asia, Australia, and the Americas; major playwrights and their works; prominent individuals; and major themes, characteristics, and developments in drama.

### **THEATER EDUCATION [10%]**

### **0010 Understand principles of theater education for children and adolescents.**

For example: teaching methods and approaches in theater arts education; the artistic development of children and adolescents in the theater arts; and criteria for evaluating acting, theatrical performance, and theater crafts at different age levels.

### **0011 Understand the interdisciplinary nature of theater.**

For example: theater in connection to related arts (e.g., opera, puppetry, mime, music, dance, visual arts, radio, television, video, film, digital media); and theater in relation to the humanities.

### **INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING [20%]**

*In addition to answering multiple-choice items, candidates will prepare written responses to questions addressing content from the preceding objectives, which are summarized in the objective and descriptive statement below.*

### **0012 Prepare an organized, developed analysis on a given topic related to one or more of the following: playwriting, performance, direction, design, production, or management of dramatic works; theater history; dramatic literature; and theater education.**

For example: principles of playwriting and dramatic structure; principles of acting; principles of directing; principles of producing and managing theatrical performances; set, costume, and lighting design and execution; dramatic literature of the United States and other theater traditions; principles of theater education for children and adolescents; and the interdisciplinary nature of theater.