Marking Guidance - Writing

Points to consider:

Please note there is no expectation that every monologue contains each of these elements. These are intended as points to consider when reading the monologue and assigning a mark to each category.

1. Narrative & Plot:

Monologues should have a clear structure with a beginning, middle, and end. Does the narrative grab your attention from the beginning? Do you get a clear idea of the situation? Is there a conflict or a problem that gives a reason for the character to be speaking? What has changed for the character or the world of the piece as a result of the monologue? Is there a clear idea being explored? Is the monologue essentially just a big list?

2. Character:

Has the writer created a believable character? Is the character's motivation for speaking clear e.g. telling a story, asking a question, reflecting on the past, trying to convince someone of something? Is it clear who the character is speaking to? What do they want from their audience? Can we see the character's thought process? Do you get an idea of the character's backstory? Do we believe the character is telling the truth? Is the character just a cliché or a caricature?

3. Language:

Does the language match the character (consider their age, situation, era)? Is the language appropriate and natural for what the character is saying? Is there effective use of word choice, metaphor punctuation, etc.? Is the language consistent throughout the monologue e.g. always speaking in the present tense? Is there a clear journey through the piece and is this matched by the language used? Does the language merely move the narrative along but not increase our understanding of the character? Does the language help create the overall tone of the monologue? Does the language help in the creation of subtext?

4. Dramatic Achievement:

Has the writer created an appropriate world within the monologue? Could a director and/or a performer interpret what has been written to create the world? Is it written to be performed? Has the writer over-explained the situation or have they let the audience derive their own meaning? Does it achieve what it has set out to do e.g if it is a comedy does it make you laugh?

	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10
Narrative/Plot	-A weak, unclear plot -No attempt has been made to create a structure - Little sense of a unifying idea	-An unclear plot but with potential to be developed further -The monologue is lacking in a clear structure -An awareness an idea but largely unexplored	-A coherent plot with potential to be developed further -Has attempted to follow a structure but this is largely unsuccessful -A clear idea with room for further exploration	-A clear plot with some development - Structure somewhat successful but not always consistent (e.g. strong beginning but weaker ending) -A clear idea that is explored effectively	-A strong, fully developed plot - A clear, effective structure -Grabs your attention from the start - A highly engaging idea, insightfully explored
Character	-No clear character created -No clear motivation for speaking	-A weak unbelievable character, or inappropriate for the situation -Lacks motivation but is still trying to achieve something	-Character lacking in credibility or consistency, perhaps clichéd or caricatured -Motivations for speaking implied but requires more clarity and nuance	-A believable character, largely consistent throughout -The character has clear motivations for speaking and shows some nuance	-A strong, well-defined and believable character created and maintained throughout - Clear motivation throughout and nuanced thought process evident
Language	-Language is stiff and poorly chosen -Language not appropriate for the character or situation - Language is inconsistent with the tone of the piece	- Language chosen to little effect -Language rarely appropriate to the character or situation - Language is not always consistent with the tone of the piece	- Some effectively chosen language - Language is appropriate to character and situation - Language is consistent with the tone of piece	- Confident writing style with well chosen language - Language is natural and effective at creating the character and situation -Language helps to create the tone of the piece and offers some subtext	- Language shows consistently skilful use of style, technique and word choice - Completely natural language highly effective in communicating character and situation -Language skilfully creates the tone of the piece and enhances the narrative with effective subtext
Dramatic Achievement	- Little success - Not written for performance -No clear scenario - Lacking in objective or impact	- Limited success - Little consideration of performance needs -Lacks a clear scenario - Has an objective but does not realise it	- Some success - Would work adequately in performance -Scenario communicated clearly but with room for development -The monologue largely achieves its objective	- Successful and creative - An effective piece that would work well in performance - Presents a clear scenario with change and development -The monologue successfully achieves what it has set out to do	- Highly successful, highly creative - Clear thought given to creating a highly effective performance piece - Clearly and skilfully presents an imaginative scenario that holds the attention as it develops - Highly successful in achieving its objective with memorable impact