

Further guidance

GCE

Edexcel Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Drama and Theatre Studies (8DR01)

Edexcel Advanced GCE in Drama and Theatre Studies (9DR01)

Controlled conditions for Units 1, 2 and 3

Issue 2

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This document is Issue 2. Key changes are sidelined. We will inform centres of any changes to this issue. The latest issue can be found on the Edexcel website: www.edexcel.com

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Edexcel guidance: Controlled conditions for GCE Drama and Theatre Studies Units 1, 2 and 3

The guidance provided in this document supersedes guidance given in the specification and Tutor Support Materials, and is to support centres in the management and delivery of AS Drama and Theatre Studies Units 1 and 2 and A2 Drama and Theatre Studies Unit 3.

Units 1 and 3 are internally assessed, Unit 2 is externally assessed; centres should refer to pages 15-46 of the specification for the unit descriptions and details of how the units will be assessed.

Controlled conditions have been introduced by the regulatory body OFQUAL in order to help protect the integrity of the examination. They aim to ensure the reliability and validity of the assessment process and that students' work is authentic.

To support this, awarding bodies and centres can use a number of strategies such as:

- feedback and guidance to students throughout the coursework process – but always ensuring that students make their own judgements and reach their own conclusions
- centre quality assurance procedures, including monitoring and tracking of student progress in stages
- reflective practice
- authenticity signatures from the student and teacher
- spot checks by awarding bodies.

Unit 1: Exploration of Drama and Theatre requires all assessment evidence to be carried out under controlled conditions.

Unit 2: Theatre Text in Performance requires the completion of the written concept for Section A (Performers) and Sections A and B (Designers) to be completed under supervised conditions.

Unit 3: Exploration of Dramatic Performance requires all assessment evidence to be carried out under controlled conditions.

The requirement for 'controlled conditions' or 'supervised conditions' does not mean that a submission has to be done, from start to finish, under close supervision in the school or college drama department. It can broadly be divided into two processes: 'research and preparation' and 'writing'.

Research and preparation

Broadly speaking, this is any work that is done prior to completing the final version of the exploration notes and evaluation of live theatre for Unit 1, the written concept for Section A (and Section B for Designers) of Unit 2 and the Supporting Written Evidence documents (SWEDS) for Unit 3.

Research and preparation *can be done outside the centre*. The results can be recorded in writing or electronically, and can be taken in and out of the centre and referred to during controlled writing time. However, the teacher *must* inspect them and be satisfied that it is the student's own work.

Unit 1: exploration notes

Research and preparation will include individual research findings and responses to the practical exploration of the chosen texts; it may also include the completion of relevant diagrams and illustrations.

Unit 1: evaluation of live theatre

Research and preparation will include notes and research findings on the live theatre performance, including production values and analysis of intended effects on the audience, and the completion of relevant diagrams and illustrations.

Unit 2: written performance/design concept

Research and preparation will include notes and research findings on the complete text in relation to the social, historical, cultural and political context. It will also include the student's preparations for performance/design: for performers, the intended interpretation; for design students, the style, genre and overall demands of the production.

Unit 3: supporting written evidence documents

Research and preparation will include notes and research findings of the six questions on page 42 of the specification, and the completion of relevant diagrams and illustrations.

Writing

Broadly speaking, this is any work involved in completing the final versions that will be submitted for internal assessment (Unit 1 and Unit 3) or be sent to the examiner (Unit 2).

Writing time will take place inside the centre, either in timetabled lesson times or outside them, as convenient to all concerned. It must be under supervision by a teacher, not necessarily the drama teacher, or a member of the support staff.

The drama teacher is required to complete an Authentication Sheet for each student's work completed under controlled/supervised conditions.

Unit 1: exploration notes

The exploration notes can be recorded in writing or electronically. Students may include their own illustrations/diagrams that will assist them; although the illustrations/diagrams will not count towards the requisite word limit (3000 words) any labelling will be included in the total word count.

There is no time limit for the completion of the exploration notes.

Unit 1: evaluation of live theatre

Students may include their own illustrations/diagrams that will assist them; although the illustrations/diagrams will not count towards the requisite word limit (1000 words) any labelling will be included in the total word count.

The evaluation of live theatre can be completed at a time convenient to all concerned and there is no time limit imposed.

Unit 2: written performance/design concept

Students can annotate versions of extracts from the play/s on which they have worked; any annotations will count towards the word limit (500 words). The word limit does not include the words of the play/s. Any words in the written performance/design concept exceeding the 500 word limit will not be marked by the examiner.

Unit 3: supporting written evidence document

The supporting written evidence document can be recorded in writing or electronically. Students may include their own illustrations/diagrams that will assist them; although the illustrations/diagrams will not count towards the requisite word limit (3500 words) any labelling will be included in the total word count. Students must respond to the six questions stated on page 42 of the specification. Please note that these titles will not count towards the total word limit.

The supporting written evidence document can be completed at a time convenient to all concerned and there is no time limit imposed.

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