Edexcel AS and A level Drama and Theatre Studies

Inspiring Creativity and Confidence

A new and improved qualification:
Keeping the parts that you love and changing the parts that you don’t.
AS and A level Drama and Theatre Studies is changing from September 2016 for all awarding bodies. At Pearson, we have taken these changes one step further to improve our course based on your feedback.

We’ve been working with practising teachers, subject associations and higher education to find out which parts of our course teachers and students value and which could be improved.

We’ve listened to you

Keeping the best parts

Flexible performance texts
- We believe that you know what will engage your students so we’re continuing to be flexible when it comes to the selection of performance texts.

Examiners present in assessments
- We carry out assessment of live performance work with an examiner or assessor in the room.

Performer or designer
- We understand that a passion for drama doesn’t mean a student is necessarily a performer. Edexcel students can complete the qualification as a performer or a designer to make the most of their individual skills and interests.

A focus on live theatre
- We believe that live theatre is the best foundation for drama students. We have kept a focus on live theatre and encourage this throughout the qualification.

Keeping popular set texts
- We’ve kept some of the Unit 4 set texts from the previous qualification due to their popularity and quality.

More guidance for students’ portfolios
- We’ve included statements for students to respond to in their portfolio, building on our successful SWED model.

Changing the parts that you didn’t like

Streamlined paperwork
- We have effectively halved the paperwork for teachers as you now only have to assess one of the components.

Improved assessment criteria
- We are providing sample assessment materials and adding exemplification and detail to the mark schemes to make clear the requirements for each level.

Less process, more practical
- We have made a shift from process/exploratory drama to development and realisation of performance material – providing a more practical heart to the qualification.

Flexibility within non-examined assessment
- Flexibility with how students can demonstrate knowledge and understanding in non-examined assessment – allowing creativity and non-written evidence.

Improved exam experience
- We’ve provided additional guidance on how visiting examiners should interact with candidates and teachers, to improve the experience for everyone.

The admin burden is too much – I’m in a very busy school and it takes away from my teaching preparation

It’s not clear what my students have to do to get the best marks

My students struggle with the exploratory side and need something more tangible

My students are creative and talented but that doesn’t always come across in their written work alone

The examiners are cold and don’t speak to my students

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Supporting you every step of the way

We have produced a range of free and paid for support to help you teach the new qualification.

Subject Advisor

If you have any questions, get in touch with our Subject Advisor, **Paul Webster**. You can sign up via our website to receive emails from Paul and be kept up-to-date about training events, news and more. Contact Paul at: TeachingPerformingArts@pearson.com

@PearsonPerfArts

Getting Ready to Teach events

Online or face-to-face, our free **Getting Ready to Teach** events will help you learn more about the new specifications, how to practically deliver the new qualification in the classroom, and the support we’re offering to help you. They’re great opportunities to speak to someone from our Drama team, as well as meeting with other Drama teachers. Sign up on our website at www.edexcel.com/training

Teaching and learning support

- Getting started guides
- Mapping documents
- Sample assessment materials.

Pearson Published Resources*

- **Edexcel AS and A level Drama and Theatre Studies Student Book**
  Available Summer 2016. Covering all the exam preparation work that students need to cover.

- **Edexcel AS and A level Drama and Theatre Studies Teacher Pack**
  Available as a one-off download. Including a variety of worksheets, teaching plans and lesson ideas to cover the course.

*It is not necessary to purchase endorsed resources, including those published by Pearson to deliver our qualification.

For more information go to qualification.pearson.com