
AS and A level Drama and Theatre 2016 mapping

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Information for current Edexcel centres

The information in this document is relevant if you are currently teaching the Edexcel AS level and A2 in Drama and Theatre Studies, and you intend to teach the Edexcel AS and A levels in Drama and Theatre from September 2016.

Because of the nature of the subject, changing to a different specification should only have a relatively small impact on your delivery of the course. The 2016 AS and A level subject content has been reviewed and refreshed to reflect current practice, but you will be encouraging students to develop the same creative and critical skills. For you, the biggest change will be the assessment grids and the changes to the assessment structure of the two courses.

Qualification structure

You will be familiar with a two-unit AS level course; the 2016 Edexcel AS level in Drama and Theatre consists of two components, one NEA (Non-examined Assessment) component and one EA (Examined Assessment) component. At AS, both the skills and the component weightings are slightly different from the unit weightings you are used to, as outlined in the table below.

The new A level in Drama and Theatre consists of three components, as opposed to two from the existing specification; this is because it is designed as a two-year linear course, with the flexibility built-in for the revision of key areas of content throughout the teaching of each component. The A level specification consists of one EA and two NEA components.

The AS and the A level are now separate qualifications, so marks achieved at AS will not contribute towards the A level mark and grade. This applies to all of the new AS and A level specifications, in all subject areas.

However, there are a number of areas within each component where AS work may be used as the basis for A level components, to support co-teachability and the linear structure of the specifications. For example:

- The texts explored and performed in AS component 1 could be used as the basis for devised work in A level component 1 or for performance work in A level component 2.
- The text explored for Section B of the AS component 2 examination could be revised for Section B of the A level component 3 written examination.

The live performance seen as the basis of section A of the AS component 2 examination could be revised for Section A of the A level component 3 written examination.

It is important to bear in mind that:

- The A level standard is higher than the AS standard, so the performance expected of students at A level is different to the performance expected of students at AS.
- Where AS content is used as the basis of work on the A level course, assessment of the A level component will meet the Assessment criteria at the A level standard.

There are a number of changes that you will find apply derive from the requirements for all AS and A level Drama and Theatre specifications. However, in developing Edexcel AS and A level Drama and Theatre we have worked hard to retain the best of the legacy specification and to make changes to support the needs of our students.

Assessment guidance

Assessment Objectives

All AS and A level Drama and Theatre specifications in Drama must now meet the following Assessment Objectives.

AO1	Create and develop ideas to communicate meaning as part of the theatre-making process, making connections between dramatic theory and practice	(20%)
AO2	Apply theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions in live performance	(30%)
AO3	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is developed and performed	(30%)
AO4	Analyse and evaluate their own work and the work of others	(20%)

Assessment Grids

Assessment in the current specification is based on a six level system, with generic descriptors for each level.

The assessment criteria grids in the new AS and A level specifications range from 3 to 5 levels, depending on the marks available for each area of assessment.

We use a common taxonomy throughout the performance assessment (AO2) grids, to help you understand the characteristics of the work in each band.

We have worked on making the criteria more specific and using a variety of descriptors at each level.

Assessment criteria grids have been structured to support markers in deciding where in the mark band to place a student, for example by narrowing mark bands, so that having determined which band the work merits, markers simply place students in the top, middle or bottom of the band.

The table on the following pages captures the similarities and differences between the 2008 and 2016 Edexcel AS and A level in Drama and Theatre specifications.

AS Mapping

	2008 AS level in Drama and Theatre Studies	2016 AS level in Drama and Theatre	Notes
AS overview	<p>The current AS level is made up of two units:</p> <p>Unit 1: Practical exploration and written coursework 40% (internally assessed)</p> <p>Unit 2: Practical examination 60% (externally assessed).</p>	<p>The new AS level is made up of two components:</p> <p>Component 1: Coursework 60% (internally assessed NEA)</p> <p>Component 2: Written examination 40% (externally assessed EA).</p>	<p>The new frameworks for AS and A levels define Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) as all assessments other than written examinations. NEA components may be internally assessed and externally moderated, or externally assessed.</p> <p>Similarly, Examined Assessment (EA) must take place in the form of an externally assessed written examination.</p>
Performer/ designer route	<p>In the current specification, students can complete Unit 2 as a performer or a designer.</p>	<p>In the new specification, students can complete the performances in component 1 as a performer or a designer. For component 2 all students must have an understanding of the roles of performer and designer.</p>	<p>The requirements for the performer and designer are the same in the new specification, a student taking part in either role must a portfolio for the development of ideas in the group piece and realise their design/performance in the performances in component 1.</p>

	2008 AS level in Drama and Theatre Studies	2016 AS level in Drama and Theatre	Notes
Unit 1: Overview	<p>AS Unit 1: Exploration of Drama and Theatre</p> <p>The current Unit 1 consists of two parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A practical and written response to the exploration of two contrasting play texts. At least one of these must be explored in the light of a practitioner. • A live theatre evaluation. <p>The choice of play texts and practitioner for the exploration are a free one for the centre. The plays must contrast.</p> <p>Two Assessment Objectives are assessed through this unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A02: Exploration • A04: Evaluation. 	<p>AS Component 1: Exploration and Performance</p> <p>The new Component 1 consists of two parts as well:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The exploration of an extract from a performance text in light of a practitioner and a performance of this extract accompanied by a portfolio (more details below). • A monologue or duologue performance. <p>Texts will be a free choice for centres, allowing a similar freedom as found in the existing Unit 1.</p> <p>There is also a free choice of practitioner for this component for centres.</p> <p>There are three AOs assessed in the new Component 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A01: Process (Creation and development of ideas) • A02: Performance/design skills • A04: Analysis and evaluation of their own work. 	<p>The new component 1 combines elements of the legacy units 1 and 2.</p> <p>The weightings for this unit have been defined by the new requirements for AS levels, with 50% of the marks for the component awarded for the portfolio, and 50% awarded for the two performances.</p> <p>The focus on performance and process rather than exploration in this component was developed as in response to teacher feedback.</p> <p>The form of assessment and general administration will remain the same as in the existing unit; assessments will be completed internally by teacher-assessor and externally moderated by Pearson.</p> <p>Component 2 set texts may not be used for performance.</p>

	2008 AS level in Drama and Theatre Studies	2016 AS level in Drama and Theatre	Notes
Written coursework	<p>AS Unit 1: Exploration Notes</p> <p>While the format of this coursework submission is 'notes', continuous prose is the most common format used by students in responding to their explored texts.</p>	<p>AS Component 1: Portfolio</p> <p>The portfolio is made up of students responding to statement about the creation and development of their performance of this extract, as well as analysing and evaluation their work.</p> <p>There is a more creative approach to the portfolio, which may be submitted in written form, in recorded form or as combination of both.</p> <p>A range of formats is acceptable, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • annotations and notes • audio and/or video evidence • annotated drawings and sketches • annotated photographs • extended written responses. 	<p>Coursework in the new AS and A level specifications does not need to be completed under controlled conditions, although the centre-assessor must be able to authenticate each portfolio.</p> <p>This flexibility of approach allows centres to ensure that students' learning styles are met in the production of the portfolio.</p> <p>In the legacy specification, students respond to A04 in the form of a review of a live theatre performance; this task is now assessed in the Component 2 written examination.</p>

	2008 AS level in Drama and Theatre Studies	2016 AS level in Drama and Theatre	Notes
Performance	<p>AS Unit 2: Theatre Text in Performance</p> <p>The existing “examination” is a practical performance divided into two sections. The first section requires students to offer either a monologue or duologue. The second section requires students to contribute to a performance of a professionally published play by a known writer.</p> <p>The current unit also offers a free choice of texts and approaches, although students may not perform texts already explored in Unit 1 for either section of the examination.</p> <p>Two Assessment Objectives are assessed through this component:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A01: Performance • A03: Interpret plays. 	<p>AS Component 1: Performances</p> <p>There are two performances required in this component:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A group performance of an extract • A monologue/duologue from a second extract. <p>There is a free choice of extracts and performance texts, it just must not be a text from the component 2 set text list.</p> <p>There is one AO assessed in this component:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A02: Performance/design skills. 	<p>In the new AS specification, assessments will be completed internally by teacher-assessor and externally moderated by Pearson.</p> <p>In the new specification, the two performances are not equally weighted. The group performance is weighted more heavily than the monologue/duologue.</p> <p>For the monologue/duologue students will have to produce approximately a 150-200 words per extract outlining their artistic intention for the piece.</p> <p>For the group piece the artistic intention will be captured in the portfolio.</p>

Mapping for current Edexcel AS and A level Drama and Theatre centres

	2008 AS level in Drama and Theatre Studies	2016 AS level in Drama and Theatre	Notes
Exploring a text and responding to a piece of live theatre	<p>The current Unit 1 consists of two parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A practical and written response to the exploration of two contrasting play texts. At least one of these must be explored in the light of a practitioner. • A live theatre evaluation. <p>As detailed above, the Assessment Objectives assessed in Unit 1 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A02: Practical and theoretical aspects of Drama • A04: Evaluation. 	<p>AS Component 2: Theatre makers in practice</p> <p>The new Component 2 consists of a written examination based on the exploration of a set text and the review of a live piece of theatre.</p> <p>Skills retain the evaluative response of the existing Unit 1, but will also incorporate knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>There are two Assessment Objectives assessed in the new Component 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A03: Knowledge and understanding • A04: Analysis and evaluation of the work of others. 	<p>Practical study or exploration of a text remains a vital aspect of this unit, as does the perspective of the student as a member of the audience evaluating the work of others.</p> <p>While the chosen text must be one of the six Edexcel AS level Drama and Theatre set-texts (see List A), centres may choose the theatre production that will most effectively support and engage their students. Notes on this production may be brought into the written examination.</p>

A2 Mapping

	2008 A2 level in Drama and Theatre Studies	2016 A level in Drama and Theatre	Notes
A level overview	<p>The current A2 level is made up of two units:</p> <p>Unit 3: Practical work and written coursework 40% (internally assessed)</p> <p>Unit 4: Written examination 60% (externally assessed).</p> <p>In order to receive a full A level, students are required to do the two units of the AS (detailed above) and the two units of the A2.</p>	<p>The new A level is made up of three components:</p> <p>Component 1: Coursework 40% (internally assessed NEA)</p> <p>Component 2: Coursework 20% (externally assessed NEA)</p> <p>Component 3: Written examination 40% (externally assessed EA).</p> <p>With the new specification, the AS and the A level are separate qualifications. There is no need to complete the AS components, and then move on to the A level ones.</p>	<p>The new frameworks for AS and A levels define Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) as all assessments other than written examinations.</p> <p>NEA components may be internally assessed and externally moderated or externally assessed.</p> <p>Similarly, Examined Assessment (EA) must take place in the form of an externally assessed written examination.</p>
Performer/designer route	<p>In the current specification, students can complete Unit 3 as a performer or a designer.</p>	<p>In the new specification, students can complete component 1 and/or component 2 as a performer or a designer. For component 3 all students must have an understanding of the roles of performer, designer and director.</p>	<p>The requirements for the performer and designer are the same in the new specification, a student taking part in either role must complete a portfolio for the development of idea in the devising component and realise their design/performance in a live performance in both component 1 and component 2.</p>

Mapping for current Edexcel AS and A level Drama and Theatre centres

<p>Devising</p>	<p>A2 Unit 3: Exploration of Dramatic Performance</p> <p>This unit focuses on a devised group production in response to either stimulus material or a published play. Students are assessed on both the process of creation and the final performance.</p> <p>There are two AOs assessed in the current Unit 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A01: Performance • A04: Evaluation. 	<p>A level Component 1: Devising</p> <p>The new Component 1 focuses on a devised original performance piece using one key extract from a performance text and a theatre practitioner as stimuli.</p> <p>Students are assessed on both the portfolio and the final performance.</p> <p>There are three AOs assessed in the new Component 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A01: Process (Creation and development of ideas) • A02: Performance/design skills • A04: Analysis and evaluation of their own work 	<p>The weightings between the practical and written aspects of this component remain the same as in the existing A2 Unit 3.</p>
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<p>Written work</p>	<p>A2 Unit 3: Supporting Written Evidence Document</p> <p>While the format of this coursework submission is 'notes', continuous prose is the most common format used by students in responding to their explored texts.</p>	<p>A level Component 1: Portfolio</p> <p>The portfolio is made up of students responding to statements about the creation and development of their devising project and analysing and evaluation their work</p> <p>As in the AS level, there is a more creative approach to the portfolio, which may be submitted in written form, in recorded form or as combination of both.</p> <p>A range of formats is acceptable including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • annotations and notes • audio and/or video evidence • annotated drawings and sketches • annotated photographs • extended written responses. 	<p>Coursework in the new A level specifications does not need to be completed under controlled conditions, although the centre-assessor must be able to authenticate each portfolio.</p> <p>This flexibility of approach allows centres to ensure that students' learning styles are met in the production of the portfolio.</p> <p>The portfolio encompasses marks relating to the devising process (A01 and AO4).</p>
<p>Performance to a visiting examiner</p>	<p>In the current specification this does not happen in the A2 year, the performance to a visiting examiner happens in the AS year.</p>	<p>A level Component 2: Text in Performance</p> <p>The new Component 2 combines elements of the legacy AS Unit 2 and the new specification AS Component 1, with students taking part in both a group performance and a monologue or duologue.</p> <p>Texts will be centre selected, allowing a similar freedom of choice as found in the existing AS Unit 2.</p> <p>There is one AO assessed in the new Component 2:</p> <p>A02: Performance/design skills.</p>	<p>The form of assessment and general administration will remain the same as in the existing AS Unit 1; assessments will be completed by a visiting assessor within a set time window, and must take place in the year of accreditation.</p> <p>Component 3 set texts may not be used for performance.</p> <p>Students will have to produce approximately a 150-200 words per extract outlining their artistic intention for the piece.</p>

Mapping for current Edexcel AS and A level Drama and Theatre centres

<p>Exploring a play text and responding to a live theatre performance</p>	<p>A2 Unit 4: Theatre Text in Context</p> <p>The existing written examination is divided into three sections. The first two sections require students to respond as a director to their explored set text. The third section requires students to respond to a live performance within the context of its original performance conditions.</p> <p>The current unit offers centres a choice of three set texts for sections A and B, and three time periods for Section C.</p> <p>The time period chosen in Section C must not be the same as the one chosen in Sections A and B.</p> <p>There are three AOs assessed in the current Unit 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A02: Practical and theoretical aspects of Drama • A03: Interpret plays • A04: Evaluation. 	<p>A level Component 3: Theatre makers in practice</p> <p>The new Component 3 consists of a written examination based on the exploration of two set texts and the review of a live piece of theatre.</p> <p>The two set texts are explored in different ways. The List A text will be practically explored from the perspective of a performer and a designer (Section B). The list B text will require students to come up with director's concept for a contemporary audience in light of a practitioner (Section C).</p> <p>Students retain the skills of the existing Unit 4, but will also incorporate knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>Two Assessment Objectives are assessed through this component:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A03: Knowledge and understanding • A04: Analysis and evaluation of the work of others. 	<p>The weightings for this unit have been defined by the new requirements for A level Drama and Theatre.</p> <p>Practical study or exploration of a text remains a vital aspect of this unit, as does the perspective of the student as a member of the audience evaluating the work of others.</p> <p>While the chosen texts must be one of the Edexcel AS level Drama and Theatre set-texts (for Section B, see List A, and for Section C, see List B), centres may choose the theatre production that will most effectively support and engage their students.</p> <p>A practitioner from the Edexcel list must also be selected for the response to the List B text in Section C.</p> <p>Notes on this production may be brought into the written examination.</p>
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