Changes to Pearson Edexcel A Level in Drama and Theatre for 2021 assessments

September 2020

Dear Colleagues,

As you are well aware teaching and learning has been disrupted due to Covid-19 and Ofqual have consulted about the impact of this on the 2021 assessments.

Following on from Ofqual's consultation response, and in order to support teachers and students and ease the burden of the 2021 assessments we have made a series of changes.

These changes can be summarised as:

Component 1
- final outcomes can differ from intended pre-Covid outcomes in the portfolio
- there will be the option of monologue and duologue for performance/design realisation, so therefore group work is not compulsory
- there are new regulatory minimum timings in place for all performance routes
- an audience can be a small live or virtual one, but must include the teacher
- the designer requirements on page 17 of the issue 4 specification are suspended for 2021 and designers are to follow the Component 2 requirements on page 40. 
  NB: the same Component 1 assessment criteria (pages 31–33) is to be used for 2021 when assessing design students
- there is a new process in place for designers who are not able to realise their designs in performance.

Component 2
- performance/design realisation will be done for one key extract only, rather than two
- the component will be marked out either 24 marks (for monologue and duologue performances/design realisations) or 36 marks (for group performance/design realisations)
- there will be two entry codes for Component 2 to allow for the differing marks: 9DR0 02A will be for the monologue/duologue option and 9DR0 02B will be for the group option.
- Marks for 9DR0 02A and 02B will be scaled up to ensure this component remains out of 60
• there are new regulatory minimum timings in place for all performance routes and therefore the penalty tables have been changed to reflect these new minimum timings
• an audience can be a small live or virtual one, but must include the teacher
• there is a new process in place for designers who are not able to realise their designs in performance.
• this component will be assessed by an examiner via recorded evidence rather than by visiting examiner.

Component 3
• the live theatre requirement can be satisfied through live streamed, digital or recorded performances
• we still require centres to complete a live performance statement (as per page 8 of the specification) when submitting text choices on our website, however this will be altered to reflect the changes for 2021.

Please see our website for more detailed information about these changes.

We hope by announcing these changes now, you have time to prepare your students for the summer 2021 exams.

We wish you and your students the very best for the new academic year.

If you have any questions about these changes for 2021, please contact our English Subject Advisor, Paul Webster via Contact Us, or emailing teachingperformingarts@pearson.com or calling 0333 016 4141.

Yours faithfully,

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