

A Level Drama and Theatre

**All Set for
2025-26**



Agenda



Reflect on the Summer series and 24/25 academic year



Look at the key events and up to date information for this new academic year



Share ideas, resources and approaches to teaching

Reflecting on 24/25



2024/25 Headlines



Same standards and expectations as 2024



Number taking A Level Drama and Theatre continue to fall: 7,599 in 2025



New exemplars and standardisation materials this term

2024/25 Component 1 Devising

Popular texts/extracts included:

- Pillowman
- Kindertransport
- Gladiator Games
- Memory of Water
- Metamorphosis
- 4.4
- Things I Know to be True
- A Doll's House
- Yerma
- 1984
- Find Me

Popular practitioners:

- The Paper Birds
- Brecht
- Artaud
- Complicité
- Gecko
- Alecky Blythe

Engaging and successful choices:

- Katie Mitchell
- Berkoff
- Kneehigh/Wise Children
- DV8
- Splendid

Popular themes and ideas included:

- Isolation
- Displacement
- Power/control
- Equality
- Sexuality
- domestic abuse
- Trauma
- Addiction
- Love/death
- the negative impact of social media
- body image
- Misogyny
- Oppression
- Infidelity
- mental health

2024/25 Component 1 Devising

Any pre-show activity counts in the time limit for the performance



Find a balance between the need to engage a live audience and satisfy the requirements of assessment



The recording is an essential piece of evidence = please ensure the quality of the recording is as high as possible

2024/25 Component 1 Portfolios

responded directly to
the 6 statements

deconstructed and
referred to their
experiences of live
theatre work

discussed their
extract in depth and
discuss its context
within the wider play

made references to
how their chosen
practitioner had
informed and
influenced their ideas

referenced other
theatre makers,
individuals and
companies

evaluation
considered both
personal discovery
and audience
intentions

Produced portfolios
that used a personal
voice throughout.

2024/25 Component 1 Performances

Students had clearly been given the advantage of practice that engendered confidence and risk-taking

Creative group performances/design realisations that were and innovative and embraced the style and methodology of the chosen practitioner

Performance work that encouraged a range of skills and control in terms of character, communication, voice and physicality

Performance work that met all required and recommended time limits

Performance/design realisation was dynamic using a range of creative choices to engage and create impact on an audience

2024/25 Component 2 Performance from Text

Popular **monologue and duologues:**

- Things I Know to be True
- Goodbye Charles
- Prima Facie
- Fleabag
- Every Brilliant Thing
- A Hundred Words for Snow
- 5 Kinds of Silence
- Bull
- Cock
- After Juliet
- 4:48 Psychosis

• Popular texts for **Group Performances:**

- Girls Like That
- Marat/Sade
- Memory of Water
- Metamorphosis
- Monsters
- My Mother Said
- Our Country's Good
- Pool, No Water
- Road
- Shakers
- The 39 Steps
- The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband
- Things I Know to be True
- Tissue
- Top Girls

2024/25 Component 2 Performance from Text

Monologues or Duologues – performers: top level work characteristics

Monologues
performed in line with
the playwright's
intentions

Monologue/Duologue
meeting the
regulatory time limit

Range of vocal and
physical techniques

Text was sufficiently
challenging

Students made the
most of their
performance time

2024/25 Component 2 Performance from Text

Group performances: top-level work characteristics

The student led the ensemble, with commitment, purpose and energy

The performance had a real sense of ownership for the students

The text was appropriate in challenge for the cohort

Real range of vocal and physical technique demonstrated

Roles allowed depth of characterisation and/or multi role'd with confidence and distinction

Maintain role(s), energy or dramatic tension

The communication within the cast and the audience was sophisticated

confident and performed with focus

2024/25 Component 2

Designers: top-level work characteristics



The design fully enhanced the performance for the audience



The technical skill is sophisticated and has clearly been worked on throughout the rehearsal period



The Design is integral to the piece and feels at the heart of the creative process



The evidence provided by the student clearly indicates a breadth of work equal to the rehearsal period



The design has context, with a sense of genre or style and/or a link to the playwright's intentions for the piece

2024/25 Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

Section A Live Theatre Evaluation

Productions included:

The Ocean at the End of the Lane
Things I Know to be True
Frankenstein
Life of Pi
The Other Place
Stranger Things: First Shadow
Bull
War Horse
The Duchess of Malfi
An Inspector Calls
Oedipus
Kyoto

Choice of two questions:

Question 1

'Live theatre should reflect who we are and the way we live our lives.'

Question 2

'Sophisticated design is the key to a successful live performance.'

- Higher marks awarded to clear examples from the performance, whilst analysing and evaluating these key moments.
- The statement needed to be referred to throughout and connected to the key moments.
- Personal response throughout.

2024/25 Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

Section B Page to Stage: Realising a Performance text

Strong responses:

- Embedding examples from the whole text - homing in on acting/design moments
 - Demonstrating a thorough understanding of both the text and where the extract fitted within the acting/design throughline
 - **Appropriately balancing vocal and physical skills**
-
- Discussing ideas and using correct terminology to inform responses and secure connections to the whole text
 - Articulating how elements conveyed meaning

2024/25 Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

Section C: Interpreting a Performance Text

Most popular texts:


- Woyzeck
- Antigone
- Hedda Gabler
- The Tempest

Most popular practitioners:

- Brecht
- Kneehigh
- Punchdrunk

Higher level responses:

- Fluency and creativity were at the heart of the work
- Sure-footed, whole production, well-prepared design ideas for their version of the play
- Students could home in a method such as gestus and consider it within a wider practitioner informed framework
- Students are able to use the Original Performance Conditions to inform and inspire their creative choices

A photograph of a person with curly hair, wearing a dark blue sweater, writing on a glass wall with a white marker. Another person is visible in the background, looking on. The setting is a modern office with large windows and industrial-style lighting.

2025-26 Academic Year

2025-26 Key dates

[Admin Support Guide Summer 2026](#)

Event	Date	Other information
<u>Component 1, 2 and 3:</u>		
Submission of text choices	<u>Online Text Submission:</u> Six weeks before scheduled performance examination date	Online text submissions must be submitted to Pearson six weeks prior to planned assessment date via Text Submission Form .
Live Theatre Performance Confirmation	<u>Statement Submission:</u> Before 1 May in year of assessment	Submission via Live Theatre Evaluation Confirmation Form
<u>Component 1:</u> Submission deadline for moderation	15 May 2026	Learner Work Transfer opens for Centre submission on 15 April 2026 and closes 15 May 2026.

2025-26 Key dates

Admin Support Guide Summer 2026

Component 2:
Submission of work

Examination Window:
5 January 2026 - 24 April
2026

Examinations between 5 January and 31 January will require digital submission – there will be no live visits between these dates.

LWT Window to upload
materials

From 31 January 2026
Up to 7 days after the
agreed examination date.
LWT will close for
submissions on 6 May 2026
(Seven working days after
final assessment date)

Centres holding examinations after 31 January will have option of live visit or digital submission.

Live centre visits require a minimum of 3 candidates/
Centres with fewer than 3
candidates will require a digital
submission.

Centre exam entries must be
made before examination takes
place.

Component 3:
9DR0/03 Examination

Thursday 21 May 2026 - AM

Timetable available on the
[Pearson website](#)

A Level Drama and Theatre qualification page

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- ☐ Exam materials (50)
- ☒ Forms and administration (9)
- ☐ Teaching and learning materials (57)

Forms and administration (9) **SORT BY**

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Administrative support guide **NEW** 

 **Pearson Edexcel A-level Drama and Theatre Administrative Support Guide 2026** **NEW**
| PDF 1.4 MB | 01 September 2025

Component 1 Duologues

- Students may complete this component as part of a duologue performance (2 performers) or a group performance (3–6 performers)
- The duologue performance option will be for first teaching September 2025, first assessment 2027

Group size	Recommended minimum performance times	Maximum performance times
2 performance students (duologue)	10 minutes	12 minutes
3–4 performance students	15 minutes	20 minutes
5–6 performance students	20 minutes	30 minutes


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A levels

Drama and Theatre (2016)



Specification



[DOWNLOAD](#)
PDF | 1.8 MB

First teaching: **2016**
First assessment: **2018**

Here you'll find everything you need to prepare for A level Drama and Theatre including our specification and sample assessment materials.

High-quality assessments: Unbeatable support

- clear and accessible assessments
- unbeatable support throughout the qualification
- fast expert advice.

Performance and set text choices 2025/26

Submit your performance text and set text choices for 2025/26.

[Learn more](#)

Course materials

- [Specification and sample assessments \(7\)](#)
- [Exam materials \(50\)](#)
- [Forms and administration \(9\)](#)
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A Level Drama and Theatre Text Submissions

Component 2 text choices

If your choice of text(s) appears on the pre-approved list, you can continue to deliver this component and do not need to contact us.

If your choice does not appear on this list, please check the text is not listed as an 'unsuitable text' before contacting drama.assessment@pearson.com for approval with details of your text including playwright and playtext title. You should wait before your choice of text is approved before continuing with delivery of this component.

All texts

Select items

Seek Text Approval

☐

Select if your text is not listed above.

Centres are reminded that you cannot use any of the 15 set texts from Component 3.

Please check here for the latest list of unsuitable texts.

Unsuitable Texts

Reference only



Should any of the above declarations change, you must email drama.assessment@pearson.com so they can update any records.

A Level Drama Approved Play Lists

[Performance Text List](#)



Subject Advisor page

[Drama, Theatre and Performing Arts](#)

Overview

News

BTEC in Performing Arts

[Home](#) > [Subjects](#) > Drama, Theatre and Performing Arts

Drama, Theatre and Performing Arts

**GCSE and A level Drama
September 2025 update**

BTEC Performing Arts
September 2025 update

Appointment booking service
with your subject advisor

**GCSE and A level Drama September
2025 update**

My latest update for September 2025 includes confirmation of the duologue option for Component 1, new training and support events for GCSE and A Level teachers this term, support for post results, and much more



[➤ Access September 2025 update](#)

Qualifications

Sort by: Qualification



A Level (1)



BTEC Entry Level and Level 1 (1)



BTEC Firsts (1)



BTEC Higher Nationals (8)



BTEC International Level 2 (1)



Live Theatre Evaluation and confirmation

Section A - Live Theatre Evaluation

It is a regulatory requirement that students are required to watch a live theatre performance. Centres must submit a confirmation of visiting live theatre to Pearson by 1 May in year of assessment. This form is available here: [Live Theatre Evaluation Confirmation Form](#)

If there are extenuating circumstances that prevent a candidate from referring to a live theatre performance for this component, please contact drama.assessment@pearson.com

Live Theatre Evaluation requirements:

- Production chosen must not be a live performance of any of the set texts. Evaluative responses of any of the set texts will be awarded 0 marks
- Free choice of any other live theatrical production that allows students to meet the demands of this component
- While both amateur and professional productions are acceptable, it is not acceptable to evaluate the work of other students for this assessment
- Sung-through musicals are not permitted for the Live Theatre Evaluation and responses using this genre will be awarded 0 marks.
- Copies of any performance texts seen are not allowed in the examination
- Authenticated live theatre performance notes may be used in the examination.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Guidance

Course materials

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Administrative support guide

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Component 1



Component 2



Component 3



Guidance for centres

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GCSE Drama and A level Drama & Theatre Artificial Intelligence (AI) Guidance

NEW

| PDF 231.7 KB | 30 September 2024

Training and support

[Book a place](#)



A Level Drama and Theatre

Free

A Level Drama and Theatre: Exam Insights Summer 2025


By Pearson

05 November 2025 at 16:00-17:30 GMT
This training is for teachers of Pearson Edexcel A Level Drama and Theatre and provides feedback and insights on ...

 1hr 30mins

 05-Nov-2025

 Live Online




A Level Drama and Theatre


Free


A Level Drama and Theatre: Preparing for Component 2

By Pearson

10 November 2025 at 16:00-18:00 GMT
This free online event, delivered by one of our subject specialists, supports teachers delivering Pearson Edexcel...

 2hrs

 10-Nov-2025

 Live Online



A Level Drama and Theatre

Free

A Level Drama and Theatre: Coursework Marking Training – Component 1

By Pearson

11 November 2025 at 16:00-18:00 GMT
This free online event, delivered by one of our subject specialists, supports teachers delivering Pearson Edexcel...

 2hrs

 11-Nov-2025

 Live Online



A Level Drama and Theatre

Free

A Level Drama and Theatre: Engaging with Purpose – Preparing Students for ...

By Pearson

26 November 2025 at 16:00-17:30 GMT
This free online event, delivered by one of our subject specialists, supports teachers delivering Pearson Edexcel...

 1hr 30mins

 26-Nov-2025

 Live Online

FAQs



Can all students have 500 words of notes, even if they've seen a recorded production?

Can my students use a Component 3 text for
Component 1 / 2 / Live Theatre Evaluation if they are
not studying that text?

We only have 1 or 2 students taking the course this year. Can they do monologues or duologues in Components 1 and 2?

And if we are using non-assessed individuals, can the students do a shorter group performance for C1 or C2?

Ideas, resources and approaches to teaching the three components



National Theatre Collection



Resource Packs and Rehearsal Diaries



Practitioners in Practice: Katie
Mitchell (Education pack)

[Katie Mitchell film for students](#)

Useful resources



[Drama Matters](#)

NT student conference

[Book a place](#)

Hamlet student conference 2025/26

This year's student conference will take place on Thursday 6 November 2025, exploring **Robert Hastie**'s fearless new production of **Hamlet**.

Featuring exciting practical demonstrations and interactive talks, this conference is designed to support both **A-Level Drama** students working on their Live Theatre review or **A-Level English** students studying *Hamlet*. Aiming to provide a new outlook on a classic text, the conference will:

- Provide insight into the directorial decisions, performance choices, and creative elements of this production.
- Explore how the structure and form of the text shapes meaning for the audience.
- Explore interpretations of *Hamlet* over time and how contextual factors shape meaning.



Useful resources

[Theatre Craft 2025](#)



Theatre Craft 2025
Monday 3rd November 2025
Royal Opera House and across the West End

Drama teacher conference

[Book a place](#)



Subject Advisor

Paul Webster

Email: TeachingPerformingArts@Pearson.com

Telephone: 03330 463 2535

Facebook: [Pearson Edexcel Drama and Theatre Teacher Group](#)

[Bookings 1:1 appointments](#): 15 mins, available Mon-Fri

[Monthly Updates and newsletters](#)





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