

Frequently Asked Questions - 2014

GCSE 2009 Drama

5DR01 Unit 1: Drama Exploration

5DR02 Unit 2: Exploring Play Texts

5DR03 Unit 3: Drama Performance

General

When will I be sent the Administrative Support Guide (ASG)?

Centres will not be sent the ASG document. It is available to download and print from the Edexcel website.

Internally Assessed Units 5DR01 and 5DR02

What will happen if my students go over the word limit?

Teachers must stop marking at the word limit. Moderators will stop moderating once the word limit has been reached.

What if my Records of Work has more sessions than I used in the 6 hours of practical exploration?

You must annotate a Scheme of Work to indicate which tasks have been completed. A record of work indicates what was actually undertaken.

Can I indicate which portions of the Documentary Responses the Moderator should assess?

No. Teachers must not edit the student's documentary responses in any way nor lead the Moderator.

What should I write in the comment box on the Controlled Assessment Record Cards and the Sample Session Record Cards?

You should write clear examples to support the marks awarded rather than using quotation(s) from the Assessment Criteria.

What is a Record of Work?

A record of the activities which were actually completed by students rather than a plan of what they were intended to do.

How long should my recorded session be for Units 1 and 2?

Your recorded session should be of a normal teaching session of approximately one hour recommended for each unit up to a maximum of two hours.

I have finished the assessed session for Unit 1/2. The students did not identify themselves at the start of the session as required. What should I do?

You must record introductions of students separately. These must be edited in before the start of the session or submitted on a separate file/ disc. As far as possible students should be in the same clothes as worn in the sample session. If there has been a significant change in the appearance of a student, this must be highlighted in notes to the moderator. Photographs of the sample students are also extremely helpful and may be submitted to support the moderation process

Why have further samples been requested?

Samples are requested for awarding purposes, training purposes and moderators may need a further sample of work in the appropriate mark range.

Will the word count be included in the students' documentary response?

The word count must be clearly stated on the Controlled Assessment Record Card.

I have students who have missed one of the sessions in my Unit 1/Unit 2 practical exploration. What should I do?

Provided that you are happy that this absence was for genuine reasons, you may repeat the missed session with your absentee students as part of a larger group but you must only count the marks for this session for your absentee students. Marks for other students in the session must not be counted towards the 6 hours.

Alternatively, if a repeat session is not feasible for your students, for example if students have not been absent at the same time, you may run a follow up session in which you must only count the marks for this session for your absentee students. Marks for other students in the session must not be counted towards the 6 hours.

If you do not assess the students in repeat/ follow up sessions, their marks must reflect their absence accordingly.

How should I indicate student absence to my moderator?

You should note this on the student's D1a/D2a (the form stapled to the front of the Documentary Response) along with reference to any repeat/ follow up sessions or to the fact that marks were adjusted to reflect their absence. You should also indicate this on the ROW detailing, for any repeated sessions, what the students actually did in both sessions and ensuring that any follow up sessions are included in the ROW.

How do I decide whether to run repeat/ follow up sessions?

That is a centre decision.

Some of my students, who took part in a 'follow up' session for absentee students, wish to write about this in their Documentary Response. Is this permissible?

No. Students must only write about the sessions in which they were assessed.

Is there any support on controlled conditions?

Edexcel has provided support materials specific to GCSE Drama on the website.

Why do I have two OPTEMS to complete for each unit?

Centres will receive two sets of OPTEMS for each unit: one OPTEMS for practical assessment (paper 01) and one OPTEMS for documentary response (paper 02).

The lowest achieving student from my Unit 1/ 2 sample session has been withdrawn since the session was recorded and he/ she is not listed on the OPTEMS. What should I do?

This will not affect the moderation of your sample session. Submit the mark for this student on the D1c/ D2c sample session record card as normal.

Unit 1: Drama Exploration

Can I use the same themes, issues and play text for more than one year?

Yes, you can use the same themes, issues and play text but the delivery of the materials and structure must be adapted for each teaching group.

Must all classes use the same material?

No. Each teacher can select the materials and structure for their teaching group. However, the centre must ensure all teachers are internally standardised.

Can I mark each student for longer than 6 hours in each unit?

Each student must only be assessed on 6 hours of practical work for the unit.

Will students be penalised if they go over the word limit for the documentary response?

No, but Moderators will not moderate past the 2000 words.

My students have written in excess of the 2000 words. Can I edit their work before sending it to the Moderator?

No. The Teacher-Assessor must only mark the work submitted for moderation up to the maximum word limit of 2000 words.

Is there any support on controlled conditions?

There are a range of support materials specific to GCSE Drama available on the Edexcel website.

Can I plan to do a performance based on the themes, topics and issues as part of the assessment in Unit 1?

No you cannot. There are no marks for performance in Unit 1. If you wish to do a rehearsed performance for Unit 3, this must not form any part of the assessment for Unit 1.

Unit 2: Exploring Play Texts

Can I use the same play text for more than one year?

Yes, you can use the same play text but the delivery of the materials and structure must be adapted for each teaching group.

Must all classes use the same material?

No. Each teacher can select the materials and structure for their teaching group. However, the centre must ensure all teachers are internally standardised and must submit a Record of Work for every teaching group.

Must my students see a professional production?

No, but they must experience a live performance as a member of the audience and write about it. Recordings will be disallowed.

Do my students have to go to the theatre for the Unit 2 response to live performance?

For Unit 2, your students must be able to respond to the work of others in a live performance. This may be a live performance in a professional theatre; it could also be of a performance within your centre of visiting actors, students or peers.

Must my students see a performance of the text I am exploring in Unit 2?

No. There need not be any connection between the play text explored in Unit 2 and the performance.

Is there any support on controlled conditions?

Edexcel is providing support materials specific to GCSE Drama on the website.

Can I mark each student for longer than 6 hours?

Each student must only be assessed on 6 hours of practical work for the unit.

Will students be penalised if they go over the word limit for the documentary response?

No, but Moderators will not moderate past the word limit.

Can the documentary response to live theatre be about the same play they have explored for Unit 2?

Yes.

How do I mark my students for their performance of scenes through the text of Unit 2?

You cannot. There are no marks for performance in Unit 2.

May my students include an extract of the Unit 2 text in their documentary response?

Only where the students have explored that extract in the 6 hours. The extract should not count as part of the student's maximum word limit.

Do my students have to go to the theatre for the Unit 2 response to live performance?

For Unit 2, your students must be able to respond to the work of others in a live performance. This may be a live performance in a professional theatre; it could also be of a performance within your centre of visiting actors, students or peers.

In Unit 2 my students enjoy devising scenes based around the characters in the play text. Does this comply with specification requirements?

No. All the assessed 6 hours must focus on exploration of the play text itself.

My students explore alternative endings to the play text. Does this work meet specification requirements?

No. All the assessed 6 hours must focus on exploration of the play text itself.

Unit 3: Drama Performance

When will my centre be sent the assignment brief?

The assignment brief will be available on the Edexcel website the last Monday in October every year. Hard copies will not be sent to centres for this specification.

When will I know who my examiner is for Unit 3?

Your examiner will contact you directly at the beginning of the spring term 2014. Edexcel does not give out examiners' details.

How long should my students spend preparing for their performance?

This is entirely a centre decision. However, 6-8 weeks is used by many centres.

Can my students wear costumes for Unit 3?

Yes. Centres MUST ensure that all students can clearly be identified by both the visiting examiner and in the recording. Students must not wear similar clothing e.g all dressed in black.

Can my students perform longer than the time allowed in the specification?

Examiners will only mark up to the time limit specified in the specification.

I do not have any technical facilities, will this affect my students' marks?

No. Performance students are marks on the criteria as published in the specification.

My students performance is considerably shorter, will this affect their marks?

Very short pieces can be self penalising. The examiner must have sufficient time to identify and assess individuals.

In Unit 3 , a group in my centre wants to perform a piece, but there is an additional role. Can a non-examination student perform with the group?

No. A non-examination student can only be involved in a performance in extreme circumstances e.g. absence of a student on the day of the examination. The exam board & the visiting examiner must be informed of any arrangements with exact circumstances as soon as possible. A script could be cut or amended at the start or during the rehearsal period to nullify this problem.

| Event | Date | Other Information |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Notification of Visiting Examiner for Unit 3 (5DR03) | January 2014 | Examiners will contact centres directly |
| Examination period for Unit 3 (5DR03) | 3 February 2014 – 30 May 2014 | |
| Notification of Moderator for Unit 1 (5DR01) and Notification of Moderator for Unit 2 (5DR02) | April/May 2014 | Edexcel will send details of moderators to Examinations Officers within centres. |
| Deadline for receipt of OPTEMS, materials and marks for Unit 1 (5DR01) and Unit 2 (5DR02) Moderators | 15 May 2014 | Work may be dispatched as soon as the centre has their Moderator's details |

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Teachers: if you have any subject specific teaching queries please contact the Subject Advisor team on 0844 372 2191 or e-mail TeachingPerformingArts@pearson.com

Examinations Officers: if you have any questions relating to entries, registrations, training courses, EOL, invoices, certificates, eligibility, approvals or results please contact Service Operations on 0844 463 2535 or e-mail serviceoperations@pearson.com