Pearson Edexcel GCSE Drama

A Guide for switching to Pearson



Why choose Pearson for GCSE Drama?

Our GCSE Drama qualification has been designed with both teachers and students in mind. We have listened to feedback from all parts of the drama community, including higher education, teachers and subject groups to design a qualification that will engage students through encouraging creativity, focusing on practical work which reflects twenty-first-century theatre practice and developing skills that will support progression to further study of drama and a wide range of other subjects.

What teachers love about our GCSE Drama qualification:

- **Clear and coherent structure** - organised into three straightforward components (*Devising, Text in Performance, Theatre Makers in Practice*) to provide clarity for both teaching and assessment.
- **Practical focus** – practical exploration is at the heart of the course through the practical assessments, and the study of performance texts allows students to articulate how they would perform in certain roles, and direct and design for a live performance.
- **Engaging prescribed texts** – our carefully selected performance texts engage and inspire students and teachers. Popular texts from previous years remain available for non-examined assessment, ensuring familiarity and flexibility.
- **Free choice of performance texts** – teachers can choose texts that best suit their students' interests, abilities and skills. An extensive list of suitable texts is available to support with text selection.
- **Clear and straightforward question papers** - our question papers are clear and accessible for students with mark schemes that are straightforward and make the requirements clear. These are a valuable teaching and assessment resource for teachers.
- **Flexible assessment methods** – Teachers can choose between a visiting examiner or digital submission for external practical assessment within an extended assessment window to provide greater flexibility.
- **Supports progression to A Level** - developed alongside Pearson Edexcel A Level Drama & Theatre, students are provided with a smooth and coherent progression in knowledge, skills, and assessment style.
- **Free teaching and learning support** – extensive resources including: CPD for teachers, getting started guide, editable course planner, a guide to devising work, a guide to interpreting texts for performance, set text guides, assessment materials to support formative assessments, exemplar material with examiner/moderator commentaries.
- **Dedicated subject advisor service and online community** – teachers can book an appointment with our subject advisor for Drama and Performing Arts to and sign up to receive information and updates about the qualification.

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Qualification Overview

Specification title: Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Drama
Specification code: 1DR0
Assessment: Two non-examination assessment components and one externally examined

Component	Content	Assessment
Component One: Devising (1DR0/01) 60 marks 40% of qualification	• Create, develop and present a devised piece from a stimulus (free choice for centre) • Performance/design realisation (15 marks) • Analysis and evaluation of the devising process and performance (45 marks) • Performer or designer routes available	Non-examined assessment Performance/design realisation and portfolio Teacher assessed, and externally moderated (digital submission)
Component Two: Text in Performance (1DR0/02) 48 marks 20% of qualification	• Students will either perform in and/or design for two key extracts from one performance text • Centre choice of performance text • Performer or designer routes available • Choice of monologue, duologue or group performances for each extract	Non-examined assessment Performance/design realisation Externally assessed (live visit or digital submission)

Component Three: Theatre Makers in Practice (1DR0/3A or 1DR0/3B)
 	
60 marks
 	
40% of qualification
	Section A: Bringing Texts to Life
	• Practical exploration and study of **one** complete performance text from choice of 12 texts from two lists:
	  ○ List A – Pre-1954 texts
	  ○ List B – Post-2000 texts
	• One question broken into five parts (short and extended responses) based on an unseen extract from the chosen performance text
	• 45 marks, assessing AO3
	
	Section B: Live Theatre Evaluation
	• Two questions requiring students to analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance
	• Students are allowed to bring in theatre evaluation notes of up to a maximum of 500 words. Section B: Live Theatre Evaluation
	• 15 marks, assessing AO4
		Written examination
		
		1hr 45mins

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To make the switch to Pearson as straightforward and smooth as possible, we have prepared some frequently asked questions that will answer many queries teachers and examination officers may have when moving to Pearson for GCSE Drama.

Do we need to contact Pearson to let you know that we intend to switch to Pearson Edexcel GCSE Drama?

Confirm you are an approved Pearson centre with your examinations officer, download the GCSE Drama specification and start teaching. Examinations officers will then need to make entries by the entry deadline in the year of certification. Details of entry codes can be found here: Entries & information manual | Pearson qualifications.

Are there any key dates that we need to be aware of before switching to Pearson Edexcel GCSE Drama?

All key dates including Component 1 moderation dates, Component 2 assessment window and Component 3 examination date can be found in the GCSE Drama Administrative Support Guide. This guide also outlines information and guidance on assessment administration for each component and is updated at the start of each academic year.

We have already started the Devised Drama component with our current examination board but wish to switch to Pearson. Is this possible?

Yes – the Devised Drama component can be completed with Pearson as long as the specification assessment criteria can be applied. Please contact us for further support and assistance.

Can we teach the same prescribed set texts and performance texts?

The list of Component 3 prescribed texts can be found in our GCSE Drama specification. If your current prescribed set text is not on this list, then you may use the text for Component 2: Text in Performance.

We have produced a list of approved Component 2 texts for each prescribed text to ensure they meet the regulatory contrast requirements. These lists are available here: GCSE Drama Teaching and Learning Materials.

If a text is not on the current lists, please contact us to review the text for approval.

We are not familiar with some of the prescribed texts for Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice – is there a guide to support with teaching the texts?

Yes – we have produced a guide for each of our prescribed texts which are available here: GCSE Drama Teaching and Learning Materials.

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Next Steps

1. Familiarise yourself with the specification, sample assessment materials and teaching resources on the Edexcel GCSE Drama (2016) | Pearson qualifications page of the Pearson website.

2. Get in touch if you'd like specific advice, guidance or support:
   Email: teachingperformingarts@pearson.com
   Phone: +44 (0) 344 463 2535
   (Teaching Services team | Mon – Fri, 8am – 5pm GMT)
   Facebook: Pearson Edexcel - Drama and Theatre teacher group

3. Book an appointment with our subject advisor for Drama, Paul Webster.

4. Sign up to receive subject advisor updates by email.

5. Sign up to attend a free training event through our Professional Development Academy.