

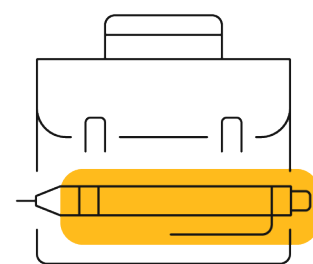
GCSE Drama and A level Drama and Theatre

Supporting Drama departments to deliver GCSE and A level qualifications

A guide for line managers and non-specialists

What makes Drama different to most other subjects?

1. Our GCSE Drama and A level Drama and Theatre qualifications are 40% internally assessed, which means that teachers mark a considerable proportion of the students' work. A sample of the candidates' work is then moderated by the exam board.
2. Our GCSE Drama and A level Drama and Theatre qualifications have both practical and written examinations.
3. Students produce live performances for Component 1 and Component 2. These performances require students to have access to suitable physical spaces during the preparation period and for assessment.
4. Component 2 can be assessed in person by a visiting examiner. Centres require suitable time and space both before and during the visit to enable the assessment to run smoothly.
5. Component 1 requires students to work in groups of 3-6 performers. This requires students to have sufficient time for preparation and collaboration, including timetabling flexibility and contingency to allow for student absences.



How to support your Drama department

1. **Enable your Drama teachers to attend training sessions from Pearson Edexcel.** Pearson provide free online marking training for all centres. Student outcomes in Component 1 rely on teachers being able to mark work accurately. Inaccurate marking can lead to centre mark adjustments.
2. **Provide your Drama teachers with time to mark and standardise work.** Since 40% of the GCSE/A level qualifications are internally assessed by teachers, time should be allowed for teachers to mark and standardise the work submitted for assessment.
3. **Provide opportunities for students to attend live theatre educational visits.** In the GCSE and A level specifications students are required to experience live theatre as a member of the audience in the same performance space as the performers. Drama teachers and students should be given the opportunity and necessary support to access appropriate live theatre to meet the requirements of the specification.
4. **Give your Drama department priority when booking spaces for rehearsals/assessments.** Drama departments need specialist spaces for students to rehearse and to conduct assessments effectively.
5. **Provide suitable facilities.** Students must develop and demonstrate understanding of all aspects of performance including technical design elements. Students would benefit from access (either in school or at an external venue) to a range of technical design elements including lighting, sound, and costume facilities.

