

# September 2023 Newsletter

## WJEC GCSE, AS/A Level Drama (and Theatre Studies)

We hope that you had a relaxing break over the summer period and that you and your learners are feeling ready for the upcoming new school year and examination series. This newsletter contains some important updates and reminders so we would encourage you to read it carefully.

Please note that should you need to contact us, then the best way to do so is via email at [drama@wjec.co.uk](mailto:drama@wjec.co.uk).

Please ensure that you have checked the website and secure website for answers before contacting us. Your exams officer will have access to the secure website.

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## Exam Results

The papers and mark schemes from the summer 2023 series are now available to view on our secure website. If you do not have access, please contact your exams officer.

Remember that 28th September 2023 is the last date for requests for reviews of marking and moderation. Please see our website for more details.

From Summer 2023, the WJEC will ensure that all externally marked papers are free to download on the Secure Website. This is to support reviews of marking, as well as teaching and learning. Scripts will be available for 6 months from results day. Please remember that you must obtain the candidate's written consent prior to accessing their script(s).

**Exam Results Analysis** on the secure website allows you to compare your students' performance on each question with that of the candidature overall, letting you see where they have done well and where there might be room for improvement. To do this, under the 'Results' tab, click on 'View/Print Item Level Data' or 'View/Print Centre Performance' for comparable data.

**Online Exam Review** provides several marked exemplars of candidate responses to key questions in an interactive format. These allow students to mark others' work and discuss ways in which it may be improved, thus developing their own skills. Exemplars from the summer examinations will be uploaded to the OER site this term.

## Information Regarding Set Texts

### GCSE Drama (Unit 3: Section A)

The following texts will be used for assessment from 2024 onwards:

- i) *A Midsummer Night's Dream* William Shakespeare
- ii) *The Glass Menagerie* Tennessee Williams
- iii) *Blue Remembered Hills* Dennis Potter
- iv) *Face* Benjamin Zephaniah
- v) *Lionboy* Zizou Corder
- vi) *Resting Restless* Bethan Marlow
- vii) *Tuesday* Alison Carr

Details regarding which editions centres must use can be found on page 18 of the [specification](#).

**Important:** Please complete the form at the link below by the end of September to indicate which text you will be studying:

[GCSE Unit 3 Text Survey](#)

### AS Drama and Theatre Studies (Unit 2)

The following texts will be used for first assessment in 2025:

- i) *A Doll's House* Tanika Gupta
- ii) *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* Bertolt Brecht
- iii) *Wyneb yn Wyneb* Meic Povey
- iv) *The Weir* Conor McPherson
- v) *Lovesong* Abi Morgan
- vi) *Once* Enda Walsh
- vii) *Leave Taking* Winsome Pinnock

Details regarding which editions centres must use can be found on page 16 of the [specification](#). Please note that our aim is to release resources and translations for the new Unit 2 texts in May 2024.

### A2 Drama and Theatre Studies (Unit 4)

The following texts will be used for first assessment in 2026:

- i) *One Man, Two Guvvors* Carlo Goldoni (adapted by Richard Bean)
- ii) *The Trial* Stephen Berkoff
- iii) *Blues for an Alabama Sky* Pearle Cleage
- iv) *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* Mark Haddon (adapted by Simon Stephens)
- v) *Dear Evan Hansen* Benj Pasek and Justin Paul
- vi) *The Watsons* Laura Wade
- vii) *Nyrsys* Bethan Marlow

Specific editions will be noted in the specification by December 2023.

## Specification Reminders and Updates

### Contacting the WJEC

Centres are reminded that all guidance for the choice of texts can be found in the specification.

### Live Theatre Review - GCSE Drama Unit 3

From September 2023 onwards, the specification shall state that the viewing of live theatre performances can include recordings or streamed performances of live theatre.

Centres should also note that the production chosen **must not** be the same as the text studied in Section A of Unit 3.

## Group Numbers – GSE Drama Unit 1 and Unit 2

Centres are reminded that they must adhere to the group number guidance stated in the specification. In unforeseen, exceptional circumstances where such numbers cannot be adhered to, Heads of Centres are advised to pen a formal letter of request to [drama@wjec.co.uk](mailto:drama@wjec.co.uk) outlining the reasons for exceptions to be granted. Please note that such requests are dealt with on a case-by-case basis and no centre should assume clearance until in receipt of reply.

## Use of Monologues

Centres are reminded that the use of monologues are not permitted at GCSE, AS or A level.

## Communication from the WJEC

Centres should note that all communication from the WJEC, including but not limited to, specification changes, text updates or course reminders, will be made via circulars, which can be accessed on the secure website. Exams Officers from each centre will have been provided with a secure site login.

## Submission of Work- GCSE Unit 1 and Unit 2

From September 2023 onwards, work submitted via postal methods **will no longer** be accepted by the WJEC. **All work must be submitted via Surpass, including NEA and video uploads.** Work that is not uploaded to Surpass by the specified deadline poses a risk to candidates receiving a grade at the end of the course.

## Resources

Centres are reminded of the resources that are available on our [Resources website](#):

- [GCSE Knowledge Organisers](#)
- [GCSE Exam and NEA Walk Through](#)
- [GCSE Set Text Notes \(2024 onwards set texts\)](#)
- [A Level Drama and Theatre Knowledge Organisers AS/A Level Exam and NEA walk throughs](#)
- [AS/A Level Set Text Notes](#)
- [AS Unit 1: Reinterpretation Resource](#)
- [National Theatre Wales Resource - The Radicalisation of Bradley Manning and Mametz](#)

These resources can be used to support learning within the classroom or as useful revision guides for learners.

## Professional Learning 2023/24

We offer a selection of exciting free and paid events in locations up and down the UK, throughout the year. Our events cover:

- A new collaboration with award winning theatre company, Created a Monster who will deliver workshops on Devising and Physical theatre. This is designed to demystify the secrets of physicality when considering the creation of improvisation and devising through movement
- Online Exam Review with Principal Examiners (A Level and GCSE)
- A Deep Dive of Production Design, designed to give practitioners a detailed explanation of the specification, with a focus on the examined set texts and generating a love of production design within schools

Our face-to-face events will be held in theatres across the UK, led by our experienced Principal Examiners

Dates, locations, and venues can be found on [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk)

[View GCSE events](#)

[View AS/A Level events](#)

## Key Dates

Centres are reminded that Key Dates information is available on our Drama [homepages](#). Please click on the Key Documents tab and then on Important Information. The document includes information regarding:

- Stimuli release
- Administration procedures regarding the externally assessed NEA units
- NEA submission dates and guidance
- Examination dates
- Contact details

## NEA submission and Video Upload Deadlines

**This will be via surpass only from September 2023.**

This will be the only accepted method to submit NEA work and the uploading of all performance materials.

Further guidance on uploading candidates' work will be issued in due course.

Please note we will require a letter from the Head of Centre from any centres that miss the submission deadlines outlining the reasons for the late submission.

### Examiner visits

Please note that from September 2023 onwards, centres will be asked to submit three preferred dates for an examiner visit. Dates chosen cannot be within the same week. These dates should be submitted on the form/s at the link/s below:

[WJEC GCSE Drama Unit 2 Examiner Visit Form 2024](#)

[WJEC GCE Drama and Theatre Examiner Visit Form 2024](#)

Please note that centres who fail to submit this form with three preferred dates by 13th October will be allocated a visiting examiner date. We will not accept requests to change this allocated date.

The Programme Proforma should be sent electronically or by post to your allocated examiner at least two weeks prior to your visit.

### Release Dates

#### Stimuli Release - WJEC A Level Drama and Theatre Studies

The Unit 3: Text in Action stimuli for assessment in 2024 was released on our secure website ([www.wjecservices.co.uk](http://www.wjecservices.co.uk)) in June 2023. Teachers will need to click on the RESOURCES tab, and then Non-Examination Assessment Tasks. In the drop-down boxes please choose Drama, WJEC, GCE, Non-Examination Assessment Task, 2023 and press Search. Please note that logins have been given to the exams officer.

#### Stimuli Release - WJEC GCSE Drama

The Unit 1: Devising Theatre stimuli for assessment in 2025 will be available on our secure website ([www.wjecservices.co.uk](http://www.wjecservices.co.uk)) from 1 September. Teachers will need to click on the RESOURCES tab, and then Non- Examination Assessment Tasks. In the drop-down boxes please choose: Drama, WJEC, GCSE, Non-Examination Assessment Task, 2023 and press Search. Please note that logins have been given to the exams officer.

#### Principal Examiner Reports

The Principal Examiner reports will be available on our website following the release of examination results. They include a review of each individual unit by the relevant Principal Moderator or Examiner and could prove to be a useful resource to inform your teaching of the various specifications. The reports can be accessed via the Drama homepages - click on the Key Documents tab and scroll to Teaching Support Materials and then Examiners' Reports.