

WJEC Drama GCSE, AS/A Level

September 2025 Newsletter

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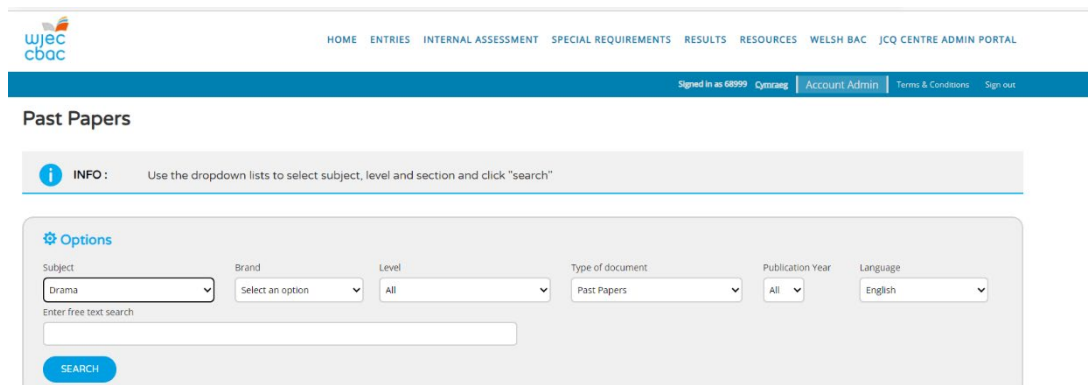
Welcome Back

Welcome back to a new term. We hope you had a great summer. Centres are advised to read the following updates, for teaching from September 2025.

For all **key dates for 2025/26**, please refer to the key dates document under ‘Support for Teachers’ on the corresponding WJEC [GCSE](#) and [AS/A Level](#) Drama qualification page.

1. Post Results Service

GCSE and AS/A level results in Drama were published in August. The papers and mark schemes are now available to view on [Portal by WJEC](#). **If you don't have access, please contact your exams officer.** To locate them, select 'Past Papers & Marking Schemes' from the 'Resources' menu at the top of the screen:



Remember that **25th September 2025** is the last date for receipt of applications for Reviews of Marking and Reviews of Moderation (ROMMAs) and for the request of electronic copies of scripts for teaching and learning purposes. Please see our website for more details.

Access to Reports:

- The 'Principal Examiners' Reports' provide feedback on the Summer 2025 series and is made available on the relevant Drama web page on the **30th of September 2025**. The report breaks down the tasks for each unit for all qualifications.
- For all non-exam assessments (NEAs), Moderation reports are available from Results day. To access your Centre moderation report, please refer to [Portal by WJEC](#). Click on 'Internal Assessment' then the relevant examination series (e.g. GCSE Drama Summer 2025).
- For all externally assessed assessments, centres can access the examiner marksheets via the view scripts access page of [Portal by WJEC](#), with the learners' permission.

2. WJEC GCSE Drama Updates

WJEC GCSE Drama – New Specification (For first assessment in Summer 2027)

Centres are reminded that the new [WJEC GCSE Drama specification](#) is now available for first teaching in September 2025 and first assessment in summer 2027. An accompanying set of SAMs are also available on the [WJEC website](#).

Unit 1: Devising Theatre (For first assessment in 2027)

Stimuli Release

The Unit 1 stimuli materials for the WJEC GCSE Drama for assessment in 2027 were released on 1st September 2025. The stimuli materials can be found on the WJEC secure website ([Portal by WJEC](#)).

- Click on the Examinations and Assessments tab, followed by Non-Examination Assessment Tasks.
- In the drop-down boxes, please choose Drama, WJEC, GCSE, Non-Examination Assessment Tasks, 2025 and then click on the SEARCH tab.
- All candidates must choose one stimulus from a choice of four included within the stimuli materials.

Full instructions for use are outlined in the NEA assessor packs, which can be located on the WJEC [GCSE](#) Drama qualification page. These stimuli materials are for the Unit 1 performances that are to be submitted between January and March 2027 only.

WJEC GCSE Drama – Legacy Specification

The information that follows pertains to the WJEC GCSE legacy specification, for final assessment in summer 2026.

Unit 1: Devising Theatre and Unit 2: Performing Theatre

Adherence to Specification Guidelines

Centres are reminded that the group size parameters laid out in the [specification](#) are designed to support the best possible outcomes for all candidates. It is, therefore, imperative that centres seek to uphold the suggested group numbers, regardless of what has been agreed upon in previous series. In exceptional circumstances, where centres do not feel they can meet these requirements, please contact drama@wjec.co.uk.

Unit 1: Devising Theatre

Upholding Deadlines

Centres are reminded of the importance of meeting upload deadlines for GCSE Unit 1: Devising Theatre. It is strongly recommended that all marks are inputted into IAMIS at least 7 days before the deadline, thus ensuring sample requests are created with sufficient time to upload work by the deadline.

Unit 2: Performing Theatre

Visiting Examiners

The Unit 2 GCSE: Performing Theatre will be externally assessed by a visiting examiner between **19th January 2026 and 1st May 2026**.

Teachers preparing candidates for the above external assessment are requested to complete the relevant administration forms, found under the Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) tab on the WJEC [GCSE](#) Drama qualification page. Centres are reminded that the video of the final performance and all administrative forms, bar candidate marksheets, should be uploaded to Surpass within 14 days of the examiner visit. This is in addition to providing hard copies of these forms to the examiner at least two weeks before their visit.

Please note that centres will be contacted directly by the examiner to organise their visiting date. The request for a visiting examiner should be made on the form below:

[WJEC GCSE Drama Unit 2 Visiting Examiner Form 2026](#)

Please note that centres who fail to submit this form **by 10th October 2025** will be allocated a visiting examiner date. We will not be able to accept requests to change this allocated date.

Centres are advised to read [Unit 2 – Processes for 2026](#) for more information regarding the external examination processes.

Unit 3: Interpreting Theatre – Specification Update

For candidates taking their final assessment in summer 2026, centres are encouraged to check the [WJEC GCSE Drama specification](#) for amendments. The following information has been added to the specification recently:

- Information regarding the insertion of extracts into Section A of the examination paper.
- Information regarding which version of the Unit 3 plays should be purchased by centres.

WJEC GCSE Drama Unit 3: Interpreting Theatre – Exam Paper Layout Update

For candidates being assessed in summer 2026, centres are requested to view the WJEC GCSE SAMs, found under Sample Assessment Materials (SAM) tab on the WJEC [GCSE Drama](#) qualification page, which depict the new layout of Section A in the exam paper. The adjusted layout of the exam paper can also be seen by downloading the summer 2025 question paper from the WJEC secure website ([Portal by WJEC](#)). To find the 2025 question paper and mark scheme:

- I. Click on the Resources tab, followed by Past Papers and Marking Schemes.
- II. In the drop-down boxes, please choose Drama, WJEC, GCSE, Past Papers, 2025 and then click on the SEARCH tab.

3. WJEC GCE Drama and Theatre Updates

Unit 1: Theatre Workshop and Unit 3: Text in Action

Adherence to Specification Guidelines

Centres are reminded that the group size parameters laid out in the [specification](#) are designed to support the best possible outcomes for all candidates. It is, therefore, imperative that all centres seek to uphold the suggested group numbers, regardless of what has been agreed upon in previous series. In exceptional circumstances, where centres do not feel they can meet these requirements, please contact drama@wjec.co.uk.

Within Unit 3: Text in Action, centres are also reminded that candidates, regardless of whether they choose to work as a designer or a performer, must only choose one skill for both pieces of work created.

Unit 1: Theatre Workshop

Upholding Deadlines

Centres are reminded of the importance of meeting upload deadlines for GCE Unit 1: Theatre Workshop. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that all marks are inputted into IAMIS at least 7 days before the deadline, thus ensuring sample requests are created with sufficient time to upload work by the deadline.

Unit 3: Text in Action

Visting Examiners

The Unit 3: Text in Action will be externally assessed by a visiting examiner between **12th January and 1st May 2026**.

Teachers preparing candidates for the above external assessment are requested to complete the relevant administration forms, found under Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) tab on the WJEC [AS/A Level Drama](#) qualification page. Centres are reminded that videos of the final performance, written reports and all administrative forms, bar candidate marksheets, should be uploaded to Surpass within 7 days after the examiner visit.

This is in addition to providing hard copies of these forms to the examiner at least two weeks before their visit. Teachers should refer to the [specification](#) for further guidance regarding the external assessment.

Please note that centres will be contacted directly by the examiner to organise their visiting date. The request for a visiting examiner should be made on the form below:

[WJEC GCE Drama and Theatre Unit 3 Examiner Visit Form 2026](#). Please note that centres who fail to submit this form by **10th October 2025** will be allocated a visiting examiner date. We will not be able to accept requests to change this allocated date.

Centres are advised to read [Unit 3 – Processes for 2026](#) for more information regarding the external examination processes.

Release of Stimuli Materials

The Unit 3 stimuli materials for the WJEC GCE Drama and Theatre for assessment in 2026 were released in June 2025. The stimuli materials are available on the WJEC Portal website ([Portal by WJEC](#)) and can be found by:

- i. Clicking on the Examinations and Assessments tab, followed by Non-Examination Assessment Tasks.
- ii. In the drop-down boxes, please choose Drama, WJEC, GCE, Non-Examination Assessment Tasks, 2025 and then click on the SEARCH tab.

All candidates must choose one stimulus from a choice of four included within the stimuli materials. Full instructions for use are outlined within the [specification](#). These stimuli materials are for the Unit 3 performances that are to be examined between January and May 2026 only.

Unit 2: Text in Theatre and Unit 4 Text in Performance – Specification Update

Centres are encouraged to check the GCE AS/A Level Drama and Theatre [specification](#) for amendments. The following information has been added to the specification recently:

- Information regarding the insertion of extracts into the Unit 2 examination paper and Section A of the Unit 4 examination paper.
- Information regarding which version of the Unit 2 and Unit 4 plays should be purchased by centres.

Unit 2: Text in Theatre and Unit 4 Text in Performance – Exam Paper Layout Update

Centres are requested to view the WJEC GCE AS/A Level Drama and Theatre SAMs, found under Sample Assessment Materials (SAM) tab on the WJEC [AS/A Level](#) Drama qualification page, which depicts the new layout of the Unit 2 exam paper and Section A of the Unit 4 exam paper. The adjusted layout of the exam paper can also be seen by downloading the summer 2025 question papers from the WJEC secure website ([Portal by WJEC](#)). To find the 2025 question papers:

- III. Click on the Resources tab, followed by Past Papers and Marking Schemes.
- IV. In the drop-down boxes, please choose Drama, WJEC, GCE, Past Papers, 2025 and then click on the SEARCH tab.

WJEC GCE A Level Drama and Theatre – Unit 4: Text in Performance - New plays for first assessment in Summer 2026

Centres are reminded to ensure they are studying the new plays, listed in the [specification](#) for first assessment in Summer 2026.

- *The Trial* Stephen Berkoff
- *Blues for an Alabama Sky* Pearle Cleage
- *One Man Two Guvvorns* Carlo Goldoni (adapted by Richard Bean)
- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* Mark Haddon (adapted by Simon Stephens)
- *The Watsons* Laura Wade
- *Nurses* Bethan Marlow
- *Our Generation* Alecky Blythe

An accompanying set of resources for the new plays will be available by the end of September 2025 on our [WJEC Educational Resources Website](#).

Please note that the previous set texts for WJEC GCE Unit 2 and Unit 4, including those assessed in summer 2025, will not be available to candidates for assessment, including resits, from September 2025 onwards.

4. Professional Learning opportunities

Our new Assessment Feedback Package for 2025-26 is an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of how assessments are marked or moderated. This integrated suite of resources and training brings together free access to Principal Examiner reports, marked scripts, and online assessment feedback sessions, as well as a range of optional paid face-to-face Professional Learning events. Learn more about how you and your learners can benefit from our Assessment Feedback Package here: [Assessment Feedback Package 2025-26 \(wjec.co.uk\)](#). You can download the most recent Principal Examiner Report and register for FREE, online feedback events on your qualification page. Please see below for details and how to book.

Autumn Term: FREE Feedback on Summer Assessments

We begin the season with free online feedback sessions, focusing on the 2025 summer series. These sessions are presented by our expert team of Examiners and include an opportunity for Q&A along with a free exemplar pack.

09/10/2025 - WJEC GCE Drama and Theatre: Feedback on summer assessments (Welsh) at 4pm

09/10/2025 - WJEC A Level Drama and Theatre: Feedback on summer 2025 assessments (English) at 4pm

Spring Term: Face to Face events

We will begin the Spring term with a series of face to face events designed specifically for the WJEC AS/A Level Drama and Theatre qualification. The event is designed to give both new and experienced teachers a fresh insight into the demands of the Specification.

The event will enhance the teaching of each Unit, providing strategies on how learners can produce successful responses to the assessment objectives. Alongside this, the session will explore useful resources to assist with learning and teaching, as well as providing new exemplar responses for each component of the course.

25/02/2026 - WJEC A Level Drama and Theatre: Refreshing Your Insight at 9.30am (English) (Cardiff)

26/02/2026 - WJEC A Level Drama and Theatre: Refreshing your Insight at 9.30am (Welsh) (Llandudno)

How to book:

To book, visit the website and find the webpage relevant to the course(s) you are teaching. Then, click on the 'Training' tab, just below the specification. From there, click on the event you wish to book and follow the instructions on the event page.

5. New *Made for Wales* GCSE Drama – Preparing to Assess

We are excited to launch the new specification for Drama. Here are some key dates for your diaries including information on upcoming Professional Learning opportunities. For more information on the new *Made for Wales* GCSE qualifications, and to stay up to date with new resources, events and the specification, please head to: [GCSE Drama | Made for Wales \(wjec.co.uk\)](https://www.wjec.co.uk)

We will be running a Preparing to Assess event in the Autumn term to assist in the preparation of assessing Unit 1. The session will focus on the requirements of the NEA, the assessment objectives and highlight key points from the mark scheme(s)/marking bands. There will also be an opportunity to explore exemplar, created specifically for illustrating approaches to marking.

Outcomes for delegates:

- Understand mark schemes/bands and assessment objectives in preparation for marking.
- An opportunity to put questions to our subject experts.
- An opportunity to explore and review marking of NEA based on exemplar.
- Further support for teaching and learning.

Event Dates

Event	Date
Blended Learning + Online Workshops – English Medium (Online)	22/09/2025
Blended Learning + Online workshops – Welsh Medium (Online)	24/09/2025
Blended Learning + Online Workshops – English Medium (Online)	29/09/2025
Blended Learning + Online workshops – Welsh Medium (Online)	01/10/2025
Preparing to Assess Unit 1 – English Medium (Online)	11/11/2025
Preparing to Assess Unit 1 – Welsh Medium Online	12/11/2025

For more information and to book, please visit the ‘training’ tab on the [WJEC GCSE website](https://www.wjec.co.uk).

6. Exemplar Materials

We are pleased to share that we can now offer up to 4 pieces of top, middle and bottom exemplar work for each Unit at GCSE and GCE Level. These examples will include performance candidates and design candidates, with a range of styles and texts covered. Please note, access to exemplar material covering summer series written examination papers will be available from 30th September 2025.

To access this new exemplar, please visit [Portal by WJEC](#) and filter for the appropriate course. Within the 'Exemplar materials' section, you will find a document, titled with the name of the relevant course, containing a Dropbox link along with a visual guide to support file structure navigation.

7. Centre Networking Map

To support centres and allow you the opportunity to connect with other teachers delivering WJEC Drama, we have set up our Networking Map. To sign up, please complete your [details here](#). We will then give you access to a map and the contact details of other centres who have given permission to be included on the map.

8. Examine with us

We're committed to ensuring that all learner's scripts are marked and assessed fairly and accurately. Examiners and Moderators are vital to the delivery of our qualifications, and we employ thousands of teachers, retired teachers, further education lecturers and education specialists to ensure that the quality of our marking continues to be of the highest standards.

Our Appointees team are on hand to answer any queries you may have about examining with us.

Phone: 029 2025 5457 Email: appointees@wjec.co.uk

Get in Touch

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