

WJEC GCSE DRAMA FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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Please note: Although you may have been given a username and password for Portal from your Exams Officer you may not have been given access to the Resources section. If you cannot find any of the resources on Portal, please see your Exams Officer in the first instance.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Where can I find the 2025 grade boundaries?

The grade boundaries can be found on the [WJEC website](#).

[WJEC GCSE 2025 Linear Grade Boundaries](#)

Where can I find a breakdown of the marks for my candidates?

A breakdown of marks is only available for externally assessed units. These can be found on Portal under Results > View/Print Item Level Data. Filter by level and year, then subject – click the arrows beneath the subject drop down box to see the next unit. **NB item level data is only available for externally assessed units.**

Key Dates

The [GCSE Drama Key Dates](#) can be found under the Resources>Key Documents>Support for Teachers

When do I need to make entries by?

Preliminary entries are to be made by 17th October and final entries by 21st February. Entries are made in the final year of candidates taking the qualification.

Are there any re-sit opportunities?

Yes. Candidates can retake any of the units and can carry forward the marks for the Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) units, i.e. Units 1 and 2, but Unit 3 must be retaken if candidates wish to enter again for the qualification. For more information, please contact entries@wjec.co.uk

UNIT 1

Where can I find my Unit 1 report?

This can be found on [Portal](#) under Internal Assessment > Internal Assessment Marks/Outcomes. Click on the drop-down menu next to GCSE June 2025; your moderator report will be listed next to Drama.

Where can I find the stimulus material for Unit 1 and when will it be released? This can be found on [Portal](#) under Resources>Non-Examination Assessment Tasks, then filter the boxes as below for the stimulus material for assessment in 2026:

The screenshot shows a search interface with the following filters: Subject: Drama; Level: GCSE; Type of document: Non-Examination Assessment Tasks; Publication Year: All; Language: English; Brand: WJEC. A search bar is present with the text 'Enter free text search' and a 'SEARCH' button. Below the search bar, it indicates 'Records found 3'.

The stimulus will be released during the first week of September each year.

Can candidates word process their evaluation?

Yes. The spell and grammar check does not need to be disabled.

I have one candidate taking GCSE Drama – what are the options for taking Unit 1?

It is possible to enter for GCSE Drama if you only have one candidate taking the qualification. For Unit 1, as the minimum group size is two, the candidate can work with a non-assessed candidate, or a teacher. If your candidate wishes to work as a designer, non-assessed performers will have to perform the devised piece so that the design can be assessed in performance.

What feedback can teachers provide for the practical and written work for Unit 1? Teachers may provide guidance and support to learners to ensure that they have a clear understanding of the requirements of the assessment, including the stimulus materials and marking grids.

Teachers may advise on the suitability of the choice of practitioner/genre in combination with the chosen stimulus.

Teachers may also advise on the suitability of the theatre/acting space technical equipment, rehearsal schedules, health and safety and working practices.

Once work is underway, feedback must be limited to general advice about what needs to be improved. Teachers must not provide specific or detailed guidance on how to make these improvements, make creative decisions or direct.

Once the work is finished and the final assessment complete, no further amendments may be made to the work.

What is the deadline for Unit 1?

The Unit 1 work must be uploaded to IAMIS by 24th March.

How do I enter my marks for Unit 1?

Marks are to be entered on [Portal](#) under Internal Assessment > Internal Assessment Marks/Outcomes. The system will be available at least 10 days before the deadline for uploading the work to surpass. Click on the drop-down box next to GCSE June 2025 and find Drama (your Exams Officer will need to give you access to this). You will then find an 'Enter Marks' button next to Drama – click on this and you will find your candidates listed. When you have entered your marks, a 'Submit Marks and View Sample' button will appear – click on this and you will see the candidates listed whose work you need to upload.

For further details, please refer to the guidance on the WJEC webpage: [Internal assessment guide](#)

I have made a clerical error in submitting my marks – what should I do?

Once marks have been submitted via IAMIS they cannot be amended by the centre. If it is noticed that an incorrect mark has been submitted, centres must complete and submit the request form (available in the Internal Assessment guide for centres).

How do I submit my Unit 1 work?

All work and relevant documentation must be uploaded electronically to IAMIS. Your Exams Officer will be able to access a circular nearer the time which contains instructions about using IAMIS. All the written work, cover sheets, programme proforma and approval form should be uploaded along with the practical work. Guidance is also available via our website, including a step-by-step video guide [https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/administration/e-submission-upload/ - tab 0](https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/administration/e-submission-upload/-tab_0)

What should I do if there is an error with the work submitted for moderation?

If the files do not appear or you have made a mistake and chosen the wrong folder / file, then please contact e-submission@wjec.co.uk

How do I request an extension to the deadline for Unit 1?

Extensions can be requested by emailing drama@wjec.co.uk

Can the coversheets be completed and signed digitally?

Yes, both handwritten and typed/digital signatures and forms are acceptable.

Should the Unit 1 work be annotated?

Yes, as this enables the moderator to see how you have allocated marks.

Unit 2

What are the arrangements for a visiting examiner for Unit 2?

To request an examiner visit for Component 2, please click on the link below and complete the form by 10th October, 2025

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

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

I have one candidate taking GCSE Drama – what are the options for taking Unit 2?

It is possible to enter for GCSE Drama if you only have one candidate taking the qualification. For Unit 2, as the minimum group size is two, the candidate can work with a non-assessed candidate, or a teacher. If your candidate wishes to work as a designer, non-assessed performers will have to perform the piece so that the design can be assessed in performance.

One of my candidates is away from school unwell on the day of the Unit 2 visiting exam - what are our options?

The absent candidate can be substituted on the day with another candidate or teacher who can then read the part of the absent candidate.

Please then complete a JCQ Form 10 which can be found at this link for all the candidates affected by the absence:

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/forms>

This form can then be e-mailed to specialrequirements@wjec.co.uk

How do I submit the recording of our Unit 2 exam?

This must be uploaded to surpass.

Can candidates play characters of a different gender?

It is not advisable to play a character of a different gender in a naturalistic style, e.g. for a boy to play the part of a mother, as this may disadvantage the learner in the application of physical and vocal skills. However, it is permitted to change the gender of a character, where this doesn't change the meaning of the text. Multi-roling, where this is a feature of the style of the piece, may also be used.

The extracts chosen to create the performance are slightly under or over ten minutes – is this OK?

Yes. The ‘ten minute’ extracts are an approximate guide for choosing performance pieces. All candidates must perform sections from both extracts. The timings for the performance for groups of actors as outlined on page 14 of the specification must be adhered to.

What are the criteria for contrasting texts (Unit 2 and Unit 3)? Are candidates penalised if text are not contrasting?

The texts chosen for Unit 2 and Unit 3 must be contrasting. The criteria for selecting appropriately contrasting texts are:

- The texts must be written by different playwrights.
- The texts must be from historically different time periods (i.e. written in different periods).
- The texts must contrast in theme.

A penalty of 5 marks will be applied to the assessment of Unit 2 if the criteria for establishing an appropriately contrasting text are not adhered to.

Please see page 15 of the specification for further guidance regarding the specific texts.


Can Unit 2 text be edited for performance?

Yes. Minor changes can be made to the text, although no new text can be added. For example:

- Minor characters may be removed.
- Some text can be cut.
- The text can be re-distributed to other characters if necessary.
- The order of the text / extracts can be changed.

Do you have exemplar performances?

Yes, the exemplar materials from recent CPD events are available on [Portal](#) under Resources > Subject Specific Support Material. Filter the boxes as below to find all the recent CPD material.

 Options

Subject	Level	Type of document	Publication Year	Language	Brand
<input type="text" value="Drama"/>	<input type="text" value="GCSE"/>	<input type="text" value="CPD"/>	<input type="text" value="All"/>	<input type="text" value="English"/>	<input type="text" value="WJEC"/>

Enter free text search

Records found 22

Does the visiting examiner need to see the Artistic Intentions beforehand?

Yes. The Artistic Intentions should be sent to the examiner at least two weeks beforehand. The examiner will contact the centre in advance of the examination to discuss appropriate arrangements.

Do design candidates need to prepare a viva or any additional material for the visiting examiner?

No. There are now separate Artistic Intentions Forms (see Unit 2 forms on the website) for performing and design candidates. Design candidates can now include additional illustrative material with their Artistic Intentions. These may include:

- Lighting or sound plot and/or cue sheets
- Photographs of the design drawing attention to specific elements
- Design sketches

What does the visiting examiner need on the day?

The visiting examiner will need the:

- Centre Approval Form (the examination cannot start without this)
- Individual mark sheets (the centre will need to complete the necessary information beforehand)
- Running Order (with photographs of the candidates if possible). All necessary documentation can be obtained from the website).

Unit 3

Can candidates review a production of a musical for Section B?

Yes. However, if candidates are discussing voice, they should do so in terms of acting skills rather than discussing the quality of the voice only.

Where can I find past papers and mark schemes?

These can be found on the [WJEC GCSE Drama page](#) under the Past Papers tab.

Can candidates write a review of a digital version of a live production?

Yes. Centres should make every effort to provide candidates with the opportunity to see live theatre, however, if this is not possible, candidates can watch and review a digital version of live theatre.

Can candidates review the same text in section A and Section B?

No, from assessment in 2024 onwards, the production chosen for viewing must not be the text studied in Section A of this unit.

Will there always be sub-headings as a guide in larger tariff questions in Section A?

Yes. Larger tariff questions will always use sub-headings as scaffolding to guide learners.

What's the largest tariff question in Section A?

The largest tariff for an individual question will be 15 marks.

How much time should candidates spend on Sections A and B?

Candidates are advised to spend approximately 1 hour and 5 minutes on Section A and approximately 25 minutes on Section B.

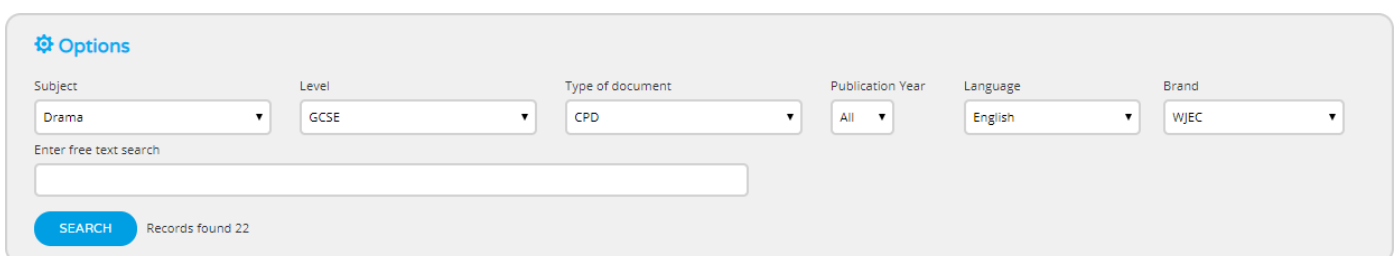
Will there always be a choice of two questions in Section B?

Yes, there will always be a question which asks candidates to discuss the production in terms of acting, and one which asks candidates to discuss a production in terms of design.

RESOURCES

Where are the CPD Materials for Drama?

The materials from recent CPD events are available on [Portal](#) under Resources > Subject Specific Support Material. Filter the boxes as below to find all the recent CPD material.



The screenshot shows a search filter interface with the following elements:

- Options** (gear icon)
- Subject:** Drama
- Level:** GCSE
- Type of document:** CPD
- Publication Year:** All
- Language:** English
- Brand:** WJEC
- Enter free text search:** (empty text box)
- SEARCH** button
- Records found 22**

Is exemplar work available for each unit?

Yes, marked exemplar is available on the [Portal](#) for each unit.

What other resources are available?

We have a selection of digital resources available on our website which can be accessed at the link: [Digital Resources](#)

Are there any textbooks to support the delivery of the specification?

Yes, we have a resource book which is endorsed by WJEC. Details can be found on the [WJEC GCSE Drama page](#)

Do you offer training for centres?

Yes. Details of upcoming courses can be found at the link: [WJEC](#)

[GCSE Drama Professional Learning](#)

If I have any more questions, who do I contact?

The Drama team will be happy to answer any queries you might have (see the WJEC website for details).

For administration/entry queries please contact:

GCSE Admin Section

0290 265154

gcse@wjec.co.uk

Entries

0290 265193

entries@wjec.co.uk

For access arrangements please contact:

Special Requirements Section

029 2026 5155

specialrequirements@wjec.co.uk

For all subject queries please contact:

029 2240 4299

drama@wjec.co.uk