

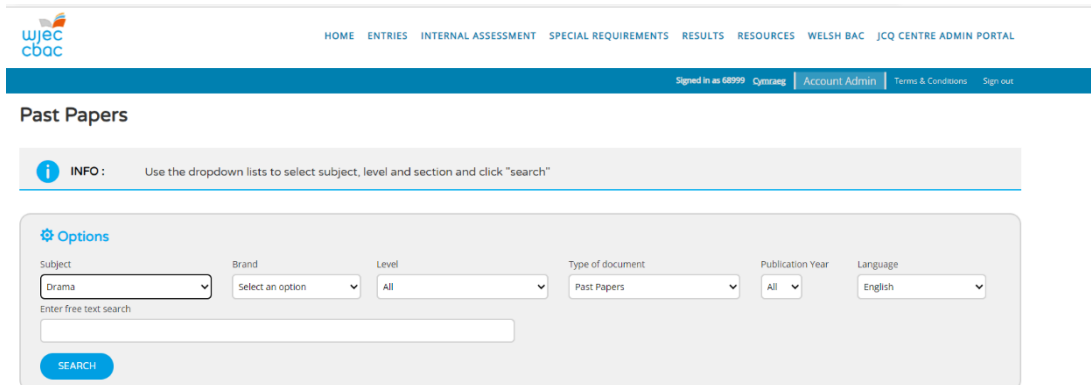
WJEC Drama GCSE, AS/A Level

Newsletter September 2024

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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:



The screenshot shows the WJEC Portal interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the WJEC logo and menu items: HOME, ENTRIES, INTERNAL ASSESSMENT, SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS, RESULTS, RESOURCES, WELSH BAC, and JCQ CENTRE ADMIN PORTAL. Below this is a user status bar showing 'Signed in as 68999 Cymraeg' and links for 'Account Admin', 'Terms & Conditions', and 'Sign out'. The main heading is 'Past Papers'. Below the heading is an 'INFO' box with an information icon and the text: 'Use the dropdown lists to select subject, level and section and click "search"'. Underneath is an 'Options' search form with the following fields: 'Subject' (dropdown menu with 'Drama' selected), 'Brand' (dropdown menu with 'Select an option'), 'Level' (dropdown menu with 'All'), 'Type of document' (dropdown menu with 'Past Papers'), 'Publication Year' (dropdown menu with 'All'), and 'Language' (dropdown menu with 'English'). There is also a text input field for 'Enter free text search' and a blue 'SEARCH' button.

Remember that **26th September** 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.

If you haven't already seen your NEA moderation report, you can access this via [Portal by WJEC](#). Click on 'Internal Assessment' then the relevant examination series (e.g. GCSE Drama Summer 2024) and you will be able to 'View Moderator Report' Interim reports on results day and final principal reports on the 30th September.

WJEC offers two services to help you understand your students' results and develop their exam skills: Exam Results Analysis and Online Exam Review.

Exam Results Analysis on [Portal by WJEC](#) 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.

In helping centres interpret their examination results, WJEC has produced guidance on using item level data to evaluate performance and identify strengths and weaknesses for individuals and cohorts.

Exemplar examination papers will be available on Portal in the early Autumn Term.

2. WJEC GCSE Drama Updates

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. Please ensure that all marks are inputted into IAMIS at least one week before the deadline, thus ensuring sample requests are created with sufficient time to upload work by the deadline.

Please also note that from September 2024 onwards, submission of work for GCSE Unit 1 Devising Theatre will be via IAMIS. Further details will follow in due course.

Unit 1: Devising Theatre

Stimulus Release

The Unit 1 stimulus materials for the WJEC GCSE Drama for assessment in 2026 will be released during September 2024. The stimulus materials will be placed on the WJEC secure website ([Portal by WJEC](#)).

- I. Teachers will need to click on the Examinations and Assessments tab, followed by Non-Examination Assessment Tasks.
- II. In the drop-down boxes, please choose Drama, WJEC, GCSE, Non-Examination Assessment Tasks, 2024 and then click on the SEARCH tab.
- III. All candidates must choose one stimulus from a choice of four included within the stimulus materials.

Full instructions for use are outlined in the [specification](#). These stimulus materials are for the Unit 1 performances to be submitted between January and March 2026 only.

Unit 2: Performing Theatre

Visiting Examiners

The Unit 2 GCSE: Performing Theatre will be externally assessed by a visiting examiner between 20 January and 30 April.

Teachers preparing candidates for the above external assessment are requested to complete the appropriate forms. Centres are reminded that the video of the final performance and all administrative forms, bar candidate marksheets, should be uploaded to Surpass within 7 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. Teachers should read pages 13 to 17 and pages 44 to 47 of the [specification](#) for further guidance regarding the external assessment.

Please note that from September 2024 onwards, 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 2025](#)

Please note that centres who fail to submit this form by 11 October 2024 will be allocated a visiting examiner date. We will not be able to accept requests to change this allocated date.

Although examiners will make every effort to accommodate the visitation dates sought by the centre, we would ask centres to find solutions with your examiner, thus ensuring that your visit occurs within the specified examination period.

Centres are reminded to consider their own holiday periods when organising visitation dates with the examiner. As centres choose their own date, the submission period of 7 days for the required documentation and videos of performance must be upheld.

Centres are invited to make their visiting examiner aware of any candidates that have pre-existing physical or vocal impairments.

Centres are also requested to email drama@wjec.co.uk if they are part of a consortium, thus ensuring that we are aware of where candidates are to be assessed by the visiting examiner. Centres should also note that any requests for visits lasting longer than one day must be made in writing to drama@wjec.co.uk and include your visiting examiner.

Finally, centres are reminded to refer to the table on page 15 of the [specification](#) for playwrights, dates written and themes which must be avoided when selecting texts for Unit 2. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in a 5-mark penalty being applied.

Unit 3: Interpreting Theatre

Specification Updates- Set Texts ISBN's removed

Please note that from September 2024, centres are no longer required to purchase ISBN specific copies of the set texts. Centres may select any edition of a set text for study, regardless of ISBN, but it is important to remember that there may be non-consequential language variances between editions. Centres must ensure that the version of the play studied is distributed by the publisher and written by the individual(s) listed in the specification. For further guidance on this, please refer to the [specification](#).

Unit 3: Interpreting Theatre

Extracts added to Exam Paper

From the summer 2025 exam series, all Drama papers will now include the referenced extracts used within Section A of the exam paper. This has no impact on the question structure or the ability of candidates to bring an unmarked copy of the text into the exam with them. To view the new layout of the exam paper, please refer to the new [GCSE Drama SAMs](#).

3. GCE 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. Please ensure that all marks are inputted into IAMIS at least one week before the deadline, thus ensuring sample requests are created with sufficient time to upload work by the deadline. A copy of the 30-70% text extract must also be uploaded with the work.

Please also note that from September 2024 onwards, submission of work for GCE Unit 1: Theatre Workshop will be via IAMIS. Further details will follow in due course.

Unit 2: Text in Theatre

New Set Texts for Summer 2025

Centres are reminded to ensure they are studying the new set texts, listed in the [specification](#) for first assessment from Summer 2025.

Set text list for assessment from 2025 onwards

A Doll's House, Tanika Gupta
The Caucasian Chalk Circle, Bertolt Brecht
Face to Face, Meic Povey
The Weir, Conor McPherson
Lovesong, Abi Morgan
Once, Enda Walsh
Leave Taking, Winsome Pinnock

Unit 3: Text in Action

Visting Examiners

The Unit 3: Text in Action will be externally assessed by a visiting examiner between 20 January and 30 April 2025.

Teachers preparing candidates for the above external assessment are requested to complete the appropriate forms. 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 read pages 18 to 22 and pages 50 to 60 of the [specification](#) for further guidance regarding the external assessment.

Please note that from September 2024 onwards, 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 2025](#)

Please note that centres who fail to submit this form by 11 October 2024 will be allocated a visiting examiner date. We will not be able to accept requests to change this allocated date.

Although examiners will make every effort to accommodate the visitation dates sought by the centre, we would ask centres to find solutions with your examiner, thus ensuring that your visit occurs within the specified examination period.

Centres are reminded to consider their own holiday periods when organising visitation dates

with the examiner. As centres choose their own date, the submission period of 7 days for the required documentation, written reports and videos of performances must be upheld.

Centres are invited to make their visiting examiner aware of any candidates that have pre-existing physical or vocal impairments.

Centres are also requested to email drama@wjec.co.uk if they are part of a consortium, thus ensuring that we are aware of where candidates are to be assessed by the visiting examiner. Centres should also note that any requests for visits lasting longer than one day must be made in writing to drama@wjec.co.uk and include your visiting examiner.

Unit 3: Text in Action

Release of Stimulus Materials

The Unit 3 stimulus materials for the WJEC GCE Drama and Theatre for assessment in 2025 was released in June 2024. The stimulus materials have been placed on the WJEC Portal website ([Portal by WJEC](#)).

- I. Teachers will need to click 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, 2024, English and then click on the SEARCH tab.

All candidates must choose one stimulus from a choice of four included within the stimulus materials. Full instructions for use are outlined within the specification. These stimulus materials are for the Unit 3 performances that are to be examined between January and May 2025 only.

Unit 2: Text in Theatre and Unit 4: Text in Performance

Extracts added to Exam Paper

From the summer 2025 exam series, all Drama papers will now include the referenced extracts used within the exam paper. This has no impact on the question structure or the ability of candidates to bring an unmarked copy of the text(s) into the exam with them. To view the new layout of the exam paper, please refer to the new AS/A Level Drama and Theatre [Sams](#).

Unit 2: Text in Theatre and Unit 4: Text in Performance

Removal of ISBN Requirements

Please note that from September 2024, centres are no longer required to purchase ISBN specific copies of the set texts. Centres may select any edition of a set text for study, regardless of ISBN, but it is important to remember that there may be non-consequential language variances between editions. Centres must ensure that the version of the play studied is distributed by the publisher and written by the individual(s) listed in the specification. For further guidance on this, please refer to the [specification](#).

4. Autumn Term Professional Learning opportunities

Our new Assessment Feedback Package for 2024-25 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 2024-25 \(wjec.co.uk\)](https://www.wjec.co.uk/assessment-feedback-package-2024-25). 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 2024 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.

Dates:

11/09/2024	WJEC GCSE Summer Assessment Feedback	Online	4-6pm
16/09/2024	WJEC GCSE Summer Assessment Feedback - Welsh Medium	Online	4-6pm
30/09/2024	WJEC AS and A Level Summer Assessment Feedback	Online	4-6pm
10/10/2024	WJEC AS and A Level Summer Assessment Feedback - Welsh Medium	Online	4-6pm

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

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 day with new resources, events and the specification, please head to: [GCSE Drama | Made for Wales \(wjec.co.uk\)](https://www.wjec.co.uk/gcse-drama-made-for-wales)

Key dates:

Item	Key date
Publication of approved specification	30 th September 2025
Publication of Sample Assessment Materials	19 th December 2024
Publication of Guidance for Teaching	31 st January 2025

Events

We will be holding a series of Professional Learning opportunities designed for practitioners starting to teach the new Made for Wales GCSE Drama specification, available for first teaching from September 2025.

PL Type	Aims	Format and Notes
Your Guide to the new specification module Available from end of September 2024	<i>To support your understanding of the specification document.</i>	<i>This asynchronous module will be on the "training on demand" tab of your qualification page on the WJEC website. You will need to register to access a link to view.</i>
Parent / Options evening flyers Available from end of September 2024	<i>To support you to provide information to parents and learners before start of study.</i>	This PDF will be published on your qualification's home page.

<p>Live Online Qualification Briefing & Q&A</p> <p>Available 2nd half autumn term 2024.</p> <p>Events are open for registration.</p> <p>Visit the <i>Training</i> tab on your new qualification's webpage to view dates and register.</p> <p>WJEC GCSE Specification Briefing (English Medium) - 21st November.</p> <p>WJEC GCSE Specification Briefing (Welsh Medium) - 28th November.</p>	<p><i>To support your understanding of the new qualification, its content and assessment structure. The live event will also refer to resources and upcoming PL and offer an opportunity to put questions to our Subject Teams and specification experts.</i></p>	<p><i>These live online events will be advertised on the WJEC website, and you will be required to register via a link. They will be hosted on Teams Live (Townhall).</i></p> <p><i>The events will be presented by WJEC Subject Advisors with Q&A support from WJEC Subject Officers. There will be English medium and Welsh medium events (except for English and Welsh qualifications).</i></p>
<p>* Preparing to Teach (face-to-face)</p> <p>Available from 14/02/25 to 07/04/25</p> <p>Registrations for the Pan Wales INSET days will be collected via your head teacher. No registrations through WJEC's website.</p>	<p><i>To support teaching the new specification. There will be a focus on understanding the assessments, assessment objectives, content and teaching approaches based on the specification, sample assessment materials and guidance for teaching.</i></p>	<p><i>These days take place on designated regional INSET days – there are 12 days in this series held across Wales, including 2 Welsh medium days and 1 bilingual day.</i></p> <p><i>These events will be led by WJEC Subject Advisors and our expert presenting teams.</i></p>
<p>Exam and NEA Walk-throughs</p> <p>Available summer Term 2025</p> <p>Access via the WJEC Portal secure website</p>	<p><i>To support you and your learners to understand the structure of question papers/NEA briefs, question types, assessment objectives and marking methods.</i></p>	<p><i>These pre-recorded PPT will initially be published on the WJEC Portal secure website only.</i></p>

* Your designated regional WJEC face-to-face INSET date (Preparing to Teach) can be found here: [Made-for-Wales GCSEs \(wjec.co.uk\)](https://www.wjec.co.uk/made-for-wales-gcse)

For more information and to get in touch, please contact drama@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 2024.

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. 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.

Get in Touch

Our appointees team are on hand to answer any queries you may have about examining with us. Phone: 029 2026 5457 [email: application.support@wjec.co.uk](mailto:application.support@wjec.co.uk)