

2022 Summer Exams Guidance: Drama

(Advanced Information regarding changes to GCSE, A and AS levels. Please be aware that these changes apply to 2022 **only**.)

AQA, Edexcel (Pearson), OCR, Eduqas/WJEC

All examination boards appear have amended methods of assessment similarly, at both GCSE and A/AS level exams. However, it is **vital** that Subject Leads and teachers access and employ the more detailed and specific guidance provided on the websites of their individual examination board. (Several useful links can be found at the end of this document but many more are available.)

Points for Consideration:

Practical Units:

- For the devised unit, most boards are now allowing reduced group sizes, including monologues, as well as reduced timing requirements. Although recommending monologues could provide a useful solution for students experiencing enforced lengthy absence, subject leads and teachers may want to consider pairing or 'buddying up' students to give a structure to rehearsal. (For details regarding reduced timings, please refer to your specific board.)
- Where it has not been possible to produce a recording of the final performance, **alternative evidence** will be accepted, and the mark scheme adapted accordingly. This could include a physical demonstration of key aspects of the work, filmed extracts from rehearsals etc., photos/images/drawings/sketches, a script of the final piece or written/video diary outlining the creative thought process etc. and should be provided alongside the log/portfolio. (Again, consult board websites for further, more specific detail.) Teachers and students should be fully aware of this so they can be encouraged to collate as much relevant evidence as possible.
- Similar changes have been made to the scripted performance elements in relation to reduced group sizes/monologues and reduced timings and the same advice (regarding pairing students up) would apply.
- Boards which have previously used visiting examiners are moving to postal or digital practical performances. Senior Leaders need to ensure that Subject Leads and teachers have the IT/audio-visual resources and support required.
- Be aware that the 'window' for assessment has been extended by most boards and consider how this can best benefit your students in terms of your yearly subject diary.
- Subject Leads should also check with their individual exam board regarding changes for design/technical candidates and ensure that teachers/students are aware.

Written Units:

- There has been a relaxation of the requirement to see a live performance. Students/teachers can use 'Covid-19' on the NEA to declare reasons why they have not been able to attend.

Live-streamed, digital, or recorded performances are acceptable to most boards. Teachers should be aware, however, that, where possible, it could still be beneficial for students to watch a recorded performance together – and with their teacher – as any ensuing discussion could help to inform their planning/revision for the written exam.

- Study of set texts: In most cases (please check!) the extract from the texts to be used on the paper will be provided in advance (and, in many cases, already has been). Technical/design elements required for this part of the examination will also be released in advance. This provides an excellent opportunity for more focussed/targeted revision. However, teaching and learning should still cover the entire subject content and students still need to be familiar with the entire text.

Useful Links:

[Subject-by-subject support for GCSE, AS and A level students in 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/subject-by-subject-support-for-gcse-as-and-a-level-students-in-2022)

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/gcse/drama-8261/changes-for-2022>

[Advanced information June 2022 - GCSE Drama \(8261\) \(aqa.org.uk\)](https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/gcse/drama-8261/changes-for-2022)

[https://www.aqa.org.uk/.../a-level/drama-and-theatre-7262/changes-for-2022](https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/a-level/drama-and-theatre-7262/changes-for-2022)

[Advanced information June 2022 - A-level Drama and Theatre \(7262\) \(aqa.org.uk\)](https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/a-level/drama-and-theatre-7262/changes-for-2022)

[Letter to Centres: Summer 2022 assessment arrangements \(pearson.com\)](https://www.pearson.com/uk/qualifications/gcse/drama-and-theatre/summer-2022-assessment-arrangements)

[Summary of changes for Summer 2022 assessments \(pearson.com\)](https://www.pearson.com/uk/qualifications/gcse/drama-and-theatre/summer-2022-assessment-arrangements)

[https://www.ocr.org.uk/.../gcse/drama-j316-from-2016/changes-for-2022](https://www.ocr.org.uk/subjects/drama/gcse/drama-j316-from-2016/changes-for-2022)

[https://ocr.org.uk/.../drama-and-theatre-h059-h459-from-2016/changes-for-2022](https://www.ocr.org.uk/subjects/drama/a-level/drama-and-theatre-h059-h459-from-2016/changes-for-2022)

<https://www.edugas.co.uk/qualifications/drama-and-theatre-as-a-level>

<https://www.edugas.co.uk/qualifications/drama-gcse>

<https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/drama-gcse>

<https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/drama-and-theatre-as-a-level>

PiXL Resources to help:

PiXL Independence - [PiXL Members Area](#)

PiXL Knowledge - [PiXL Members Area](#)

PiXL Thinking Hard - [PiXL Members Area](#)

We know that you will be finding the time to read through all the advanced information for the specifications you deliver at both Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. We appreciate that there will be much to consider about where you are best to focus some of your exam preparation before the Summer exam series. We also recognise that many of your previous resources and plans will need adaptations overall and at question level.

We have put together some possible questions and considerations for you in these subjects. We've included links to the exam board websites along with some leadership questions and some PiXL resources that may be of use to you and your students. We will continue to update your school leaders via our conferences. Do reach out via admin@pixl.org.uk if you have any particular queries and we can collate an FAQ document.

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