



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

To be given to candidates on or after 1 September in the academic year before certification

GCSE (9–1) Drama

J316/01/02 Devising drama

Cohort: 2023–2025



INSTRUCTIONS

- Choose **one** stimulus. Develop your drama from the stimulus you have chosen.
- Work in groups to create your drama. In your group you may have between **two** and **six** performers, plus **one** designer per design role.
- Your portfolio of evidence must be your own work.

INFORMATION

- The total mark is **60**.
- This document has **16** pages.

ADVICE

- Time for preparatory work and assessment time is decided by your centre.

Guidance for Candidates

There are three sections to this assessment.

- **Section 1** is the exploration of the chosen stimulus and creating your initial ideas.
- **Section 2** is the creation and development of your devised drama in your chosen role as either a performer or a designer, including analysing and evaluating the work in progress.
- **Section 3** is your final performance and evaluation.

Your devised performance must be developed based on **one** stimulus from this paper. There are 10 stimuli in this paper, one of each of the following:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| • Historical event | • Photograph |
| • Instrumental music | • Poem |
| • News article | • Prose |
| • Painting | • Sculpture |
| • Person/People | • Song. |

You will work in groups of between **two** and **six** performers plus **one** designer per design role, although you are **not** required to have designers in your group.

During the exploratory stage you will work collaboratively to create the narrative or concept for your performance. After this you will focus on your chosen role while rehearsing, refining, amending and evaluating the performance ready for an audience, justifying why you have made changes to the devised piece. You will perform the devised piece, communicating the meaning to the audience, reflecting your adaptation of the stimulus. After the performance you will write an evaluation of your own performance. The devised work must be your own original work in response to the chosen stimulus.

You must create a portfolio to support the development of your devised piece, outlining the realisation of the adaptation of the selected stimulus. The portfolio should be structured in three sections.

Section 1 – Research and initial ideas.

Section 2 – Creating and developing drama including analysing and evaluating the work in progress.

Section 3 – An evaluation of your final piece of devised drama.

Please note: There are many sources of information available for the stimuli to help you prepare material for your portfolio. You should **not** contact artists, composers or writers directly as part of your research. Instead refer to information available online and from other sources.

The recommended maximum length of a portfolio should be:

- 20 sides of A4 which may include:
 - notes, sketches, diagrams, scripts, storyboards, photographs and annotations.

OR

- 12 minutes of recorded presentation which may include:
 - video diary/video blogs, recording of performance activities created through the devised performance and slides/titles with audio commentary.

OR

- 2000 words of continuous prose.

A portfolio can also contain a combination of the above. The length of each format should be in proportion to the assessed work it represents. The following combinations are shown as examples of combined portfolio formats.

- 10 sides of A4 with 1000 words of prose.
- 10 sides of A4 with 6 minutes of recorded presentation.
- 6 minutes of recorded presentation with 1000 words.
- 7 sides of A4 with 1400 words of prose.
- 14 sides of A4 with 700 words of prose.
- 7 sides of A4 with 8 minutes of recorded presentation.
- 14 sides of A4 with 4 minutes of recorded presentation.
- 4 minutes of recorded presentation with 1400 words of prose.
- 8 minutes of recorded presentation with 700 words of prose.
- 7 pages of A4 with 4 minutes of recorded presentation and 700 words of prose.

Appendices are **not** permitted.

You must also create a final, polished realisation of your devised drama with a clear link to the selected stimulus. The final assessed performance **must** be video recorded.

If you are working with or as a designer, you should work collaboratively in rehearsals. If you are working without designers, you are expected to realise a minimal amount of lighting, sound, set and/or costume as is necessary for the performance.

Performer requirements (AO2)

The minimum time for a devised performance is 5 minutes and the maximum time is 15 minutes.

If you are a performer, you should ensure that the roles within the performance are demanding enough to allow sufficient demonstration of evidence that meets the marking criteria.

Designer requirements (AO2)

If you are a designer, you must work with a performance group whose performance meets the minimum times set out above.

You can choose from **one** of the following design roles:

- lighting
- sound
- lighting and sound (combined) *
- set (including props and multimedia staging)
- costume (including hair, makeup and masks).

* Lighting and sound (combined) **cannot** be chosen where a lighting and/or sound designer is part of the performance group.

You should ensure that the content and structure of the devised drama contains sufficient design demands to allow the demonstration of evidence to meet the marking criteria.

The minimum requirements for you as a designer are as follows:

- Lighting – a full lighting design for the performance with a cue sheet detailing lanterns used and the differing lighting states. A minimum of **six** lighting changes evident in the performance. Lights up and lights down are **not** included in this number. Discuss with appropriate staff the selection, rigging and plotting of the lights. During the performance you must operate the lighting desk.
- Sound – a full sound sheet with original and copied cues leading to a finalised sound CD or MP3 playlist on a memory stick for use in the final performance. A minimum of **six** sound cues evident in the performance. During the performance you must operate the sound desk.
- Lighting and sound (combined) – a combination of the requirements for sound and lighting which are approximately equal in weighting and which total **six** cues in performance.
- Set – a scale model and a detailed ground plan of the set. Sourcing set (and props) for the performance and supervision of the construction of set where appropriate. You must dress the set ready for performance and **one** set design must be realised in the final performance.
- Costume – a final design of:
 - **either one** full costume including hair and makeup detail which is sourced and realised in performance
 - **or one** full costume including mask(s) which is sourced and realised in performance
 - **or two** costumes for characters (excluding hair, makeup or masks) which are sourced and realised in performance. These costumes can be for different characters or different costumes for **one** character.

Stimulus 1
Historical event

1 Diamond Annie and the Forty Elephants.

Dubbed Britain's first all-female criminal gang. The Forty Elephants were largely made up of married housewives who specialised in shoplifting from some of London's most luxurious department stores. It is hard to identify an exact date that this all-female criminal syndicate started as accounts vary. Most agree they were most successful during the early 20th century when led by Alice Diamond also known as Diamond Annie. The 20-year-old was said to be so skilled that during one arrest she slipped a stolen ring from her finger into a policeman's coat.



© National Archives/Queen of Thieves by Beezy Marsh, published by Orion

Stimulus 2
Instrumental music

- 2** *Departure from Final Fantasy XV* (2016) Soundtrack by Yoko Shimomura.

Stimulus 3
News article

3 Crystal Palace letter arrives more than 100 years late.

A letter written in February 1916 has arrived at a flat in south London more than 100 years later.

The envelope, which has a Bath postmark and a 1d (1p) stamp bearing George V's head, arrived at Finlay Glen's flat on Hamlet Road, Crystal Palace, in 2021. He said: "We were obviously pretty surprised and mystified as to how it could have been sat around for more than 100 years."

Royal Mail said it remained "uncertain what happened in this instance".

The letter was sent two years before World War One rationing was introduced and King George V had been on the throne for five years. Future prime ministers Harold Wilson and Sir Edward Heath were both born later that year.

Although it can be a crime to open mail not addressed to you, under the Postal Services Act 2000, the theatre director said he felt it was "fair game" to open once he realised it was from 1916, not 2016. The 27-year-old added: "If I've committed a crime, I can only apologise."

The letter was written to "my dear Katie", the wife of local stamp magnate Oswald Marsh, according to Stephen Oxford, editor of the Norwood Review, a quarterly local history magazine. Oswald Marsh was a highly regarded stamp dealer who was often called as an expert witness in cases of stamp fraud. It was penned by family friend Christabel Mennell, the daughter of a wealthy local tea merchant Henry Tuke Mennell, while on holiday in Bath.

In the letter, Ms Mennell stated she felt "quite ashamed of myself after saying what I did", and that she had been feeling "miserable here with a very heavy cold".

Stimulus 4
Painting

4 *Stop Wars* by Eduardo Kobra.



Stimulus 5
Person**5** Professor Jason Arday – renowned sociologist.

At the age of three Jason was diagnosed with Autism. He was unable to speak until the age of eleven and couldn't read or write until he turned eighteen. In March 2023 Jason took up a new post at the University of Cambridge as professor of Sociology of Education.

**Stimulus 6
Photograph****6** *Corona Diaries* by Kirsty Mackay.

Stimulus 7
Poem

7 *The Telephone Call* by Fleur Adcock.

They asked me 'Are you sitting down?
Right? This is Universal Lotteries',
they said. 'You've won the top prize,
the Ultra-super Global Special.
What would you do with a million pounds?
Or, actually, with more than a million –
not that it makes a lot of difference
once you're a millionaire.' And they laughed.

'Are you OK?' they asked - 'Still there?
Come on, now, tell us, how does it feel?'
I said 'I just... I can't believe it!'
They said 'That's what they all say.
What else? Go on, tell us about it.'
I said, 'I feel the top of my head
has floated off, out through the window,
revolving like a flying saucer.'

'That's unusual' they said. 'Go on'.
I said 'I'm finding it hard to talk.
My throat's gone dry, my nose is tingling.
I think I'm going to sneeze – or cry.'
'That's right' they said, 'don't be ashamed
of giving way to your emotions.
It isn't every day you hear
you're going to get a million pounds.

Relax, now, have a little cry;
we'll give you a moment...' 'Hang on!' I said.
'I haven't bought a lottery ticket
for years and years. And what did you say
the company's called?' 'They laughed again.
'Not to worry about a ticket.
We're Universal. We operate
A retrospective Chance Module.

Nearly everyone's bought a ticket
in some lottery or another,
once at least. We buy up the files,
feed the names into our computer,
and see who the lucky person is.'
'Well, that's incredible' I said.
'It's marvelous. I still can't quite...
I'll believe it when I see the cheque.'

'Oh,' they said, 'there's no cheque.'
'But the money?' 'We don't deal in money.
Experiences are what we deal in.
You've had a great experience, right?
Exciting? Something you'll remember?
That's your prize. So congratulations
From all of us at Universal.
Have a nice day!' And the line went dead.

Stimulus 8
Prose**8** *Ink* – An extract from the book by Alice Broadway.

Dad had assured me it was nothing to worry about, but that hadn't stopped me being scared. We'd all been told about the machine that reads your pulse and temperature and beeps if you're lying, but I'd never seen it. My imagination had convinced me that it was definitely going to hurt. I was certain that this would be the moment that I would be found out; I thought of all the little lies I'd told my parents and times I had sneaked an extra biscuit when I'd been told I'd had enough. I even had nightmares about accidentally confessing to a crime I hadn't committed.

It was an anticlimax when we were shown from the main reception and led in to a small, completely plain room with white walls, two chairs, a wooden table and a small contraption that was nothing more than a dull and battered-looking metal dome with a light attached and wires coming out of it. A man with a notebook was waiting and gestured for me to sit down, but when Dad saw how nervous I was, he asked if he could go first. He sat in the chair, placed his left hand on the dome and looked at me with a smile and a roll of his eyes that said, "This is a breeze."

He answered all the questions calmly and the machine did nothing. I was relieved that the questions weren't too hard: just general queries about new marks and a list of crimes Dad had to confirm he hadn't committed. The man wrote down the odd note and when he was done, he smiled at Dad and told him he could stand up.

"Your conscience is clear, Mr Flint. Good, good." He smiled as though this was all a bit of fun and then looked my way. "Your turn now." He chuckled. "I promise, you won't feel a thing."

I sat down and took a deep breath, but the moment I put my hand on the machine it began to screech. I snatched my hand away in horror.

Stimulus 9
Sculpture

9 *Seated Figure* by Sean Henry.



Stimulus 10
Song

10 *Crashed the Wedding* by Busted (2003) written by James Bourne/Thomas Michael Fletcher.

END OF QUESTION PAPER

**Copyright Information**

Stimulus 1 – Photograph of Alice Diamond taken from Daily Mail

Stimulus 2 – Score: Instrumental Music, Departure from Final Fantasy XV Soundtrack

Stimulus 3 – News Article, Adapted From 'Crystal Palace letter arrives more than 100 years late' – BBC News

Stimulus 4 – Image, Stop Wars – Eduardo Kobra

Stimulus 5 – Photograph of Jason Arday taken from 'Jason Arday to become youngest ever black professor at Cambridge' – The Guardian

Stimulus 6 – Image, Corona Diaries – Kirsty Mackay

Stimulus 7 – Poem, The Telephone Call by Fleur Adcock

Stimulus 8 – Text taken from Ink by Alice Broadway

Stimulus 9 – Image of Sculpture Seated Figure

Stimulus 10 – Song, Crashed the Wedding by Busted James Bourne/Thomas Michael Fletcher

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