

Your guide to the changes for 2021

Following an [Ofqual consultation](#), we have made changes to a number of our qualifications.

The changes are designed to reduce the pressure on teachers and students in the 2020/21 academic year, and to safeguard against ongoing public health concerns.

Please [use the specification on our website](#) alongside this document which shows how our qualifications will differ in summer 2021.

Overview of changes for GCSE (9–1) Drama

Ofqual have confirmed that students taking GCSE Drama in summer 2021 will have a reduction in Non-exam assessment (NEA) requirements:

- There will be a reduction in the minimum duration time of performances for **Devising drama** and **Presenting and performing texts**.
- Monologues will be allowed to be presented for performance where group performances are not possible in both NEA components. As per our usual specification requirements, designers must work with a performer(s).
- There will be no visiting examiner for **Presenting and performing texts**, instead performance recordings will be submitted.
- There is a reduction in the number of extracts that performers/designers need to showcase in **Presenting and performing texts**.
- We are extending the assessment window for the recording of the **Presenting and performing texts** performance, to provide more flexibility for centres.
- There is a relaxation in the requirement to see live theatre. The evaluation of live theatre will, as currently, be allowed to be on a recorded/streamed/digital performance.

There will be no change to the written paper **Drama: Performance and response**.

GCSE (9–1) Drama for academic year 2020/21

Learners must complete three components to be awarded OCR's GCSE (9–1) in Drama in **summer 2021**: Devising drama (01/02) and Presenting and performing texts (03/05) and Performance and Response (04).

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
Learners will research and explore a stimulus, work collaboratively and create their own devised drama.	Devising drama* (J316/01/02) 60 marks Non-exam assessment (Internal assessment)	30% of total GCSE
Learners develop and apply theatrical skills in acting or design by presenting a showcase of one extract from a performance text.	Presenting and performing texts** (J316/03/05)*** 60 marks Non-exam assessment (External assessment)	30% of total GCSE
Learners will explore practically a performance text to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of drama. Learners will analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance	Drama: Performance and response (J316/04) 80 marks Exam assessment 1 hour 30 minutes (Written paper)	40% of total GCSE

* Devising drama will continue to be internally assessed and moderated by OCR as usual.

** Presenting and performing texts will continue to be externally assessed by OCR Examiners, via video submission.

*** A new component code (05) has been added to allow for both digital and postal submissions of text-based performances - J316/03 is digital, J316/05 is postal.

Marking Criteria will be adjusted to remove mandatory requirements for group performances and to reflect the reduction in the number of texts that need to be performed but will otherwise remain the same. Please continue to refer to the published marking criteria until we update you with adjusted descriptors.

As well as the standard Head of Centre declaration form, an additional Teacher Witness Statement section will be added to the Centre Assessment form for 2021. This will record teacher comments evidencing the work that candidates have undertaken.

What has changed?

What has changed – Specification	Detail
<p>Devising drama – reduction in minimum performance times and designer requirements</p>	<p>For 2021 Learners may participate as a performer or a designer either in groups (of up to 6 people) or they may participate in a monologue. Designers must still work with a performer(s).</p> <p>Performing Requirements</p> <p>Learners must complete a performance of an absolute minimum duration performance time of 1.5 minutes if working individually or 2 minutes if working in a group of 2 or more in this component as a requirement of the course.</p> <p>The recommended minimum and recommended maximum performance times for learners are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monologue – 1.5 minutes to 2 minutes • duologue – 2 minutes to 4 minutes • group performance – 3 minutes to 8 minutes <p>There is no penalty for going over the recommended maximum time.</p> <p>Design Requirements</p> <p>The minimum requirements are reduced to reflect the shorter minimum required duration for performances:</p> <p>As per our usual specification requirements, designers must work with a performer(s)</p> <p>Lighting – a full lighting design for the performance with a cue sheet detailing lanterns used and the differing lighting states. A minimum of THREE lighting changes evident in the performance. Lights up and lights down are not included in this number.</p> <p>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 THREE sound cues evident in the performance. During the performance learners must operate the sound desk.</p> <p>Lighting and Sound (combined) – a combination of the requirements for sound and lighting which are approximately equal in weighting and which total THREE cues in performance.</p> <p>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. Learners must dress the set ready for performance and one set design must be realised in the final performance.</p> <p>Costume – a final design of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>The minimum times indicate duration of the performance piece and apply to both designer and performer roles.</p> <p>Performing requirements will be implemented in the same way as our published specification. Where learners do not meet the bare minimum or provide evidence to meet the bare minimum, they will receive 0 marks for AO2.</p>

What has changed – Specification	Detail
<p>Devising drama – In the event of a centre not being able to record their final performance as intended they may submit alternative evidence alongside their completed portfolio to illustrate the intended final piece</p>	<p>Alternative evidence may be submitted for performances that did not get completed in 2019/20, alongside the completed portfolio (which includes evaluation of their own work as usual) to illustrate the intended final piece</p> <p>Portfolios and evaluations of the devising process to still be carried out as usual.</p> <p>To evidence the student’s contribution to the creation and development of ideas, and their analysis and evaluation of their own work, alternative evidence may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical demonstrations of key aspects of the drama with an explanation of how the final piece was developed and would have been performed/designed and informed by an evaluation • filmed evidence – which can include; performance extracts, rehearsals, character exploration work, abridged scenes, etc. • original and non-original photographs, images, drawings or sketches with annotations to illustrate how the final drama piece was created and developed with an explanation of how it would have been performed or designed • a script, which accounts for the final drama piece, together with supporting evidence to show how it was developed and would have been performed/designed • a written account, detailing the creative thought processes to arrive at the final piece of drama • video diary, detailing the creative process that arrived at the final piece of drama
<p>Presenting and performing texts - reduction in minimum performance times, number of texts and designer requirements</p>	<p>Learners must complete a performance of an absolute minimum duration performance time of 1.5 minutes if participating in a monologue or 2 minutes if working in a group of 2 or more in this component as a requirement of the course. Designers must still work with a performer(s).</p> <p>Learners apply their presentation and performance skills through realising one key extract, instead of two (from one centre-chosen text).</p> <p>The recommended minimum and recommended maximum performance times for learners are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monologue – 1.5 minutes to 2 minutes • duologue – 2 minutes to 4 minutes • group performance – 3 minutes to 8 minutes <p>There is no penalty for going over the recommended maximum time.</p> <p>Design Requirements</p> <p>Minimum requirements reduced to reflect the shorter minimum required duration for performances:</p> <p>As per our usual specification requirements, designers must work with a performer(s).</p> <p>Lighting – a full lighting design for the performance with a cue sheet detailing lanterns used and the differing lighting states. A minimum of THREE lighting changes evident in the performance. Lights up and lights down are not included in this number.</p> <p>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 THREE sound cues evident in the performance. During the performance learners must operate the sound desk.</p>

What has changed – Specification	Detail
	<p>Lighting and sound (combined) – a combination of the requirements for sound and lighting which are approximately equal in weighting and which total THREE cues in performance.</p> <p>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. Learners must dress the set ready for performance and one set design must be realised in the final performance.</p> <p>Costume – a final design of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>The minimum times indicate duration of the performance piece and apply to both designer and performer roles.</p> <p>Performing requirements will be implemented in the same way as our published specification. Where learners do not meet the bare minimum or provide evidence to meet the bare minimum, they will receive 0 marks for AO2.</p>
<p>Presenting and performing texts - In the event of a centre not being able to record their performance as intended they may submit alternative evidence alongside their completed concept proforma to illustrate the intended final piece</p>	<p>There will be no visiting examiner for Presenting and performing texts instead the performance will be marked by the examiner remotely via a video recording submitted by centres to OCR.</p> <p>We are extending the assessment window for the submission of the recordings of performances for this component, with the intention of providing more flexibility for centres.</p> <p>The marking criteria will be adjusted to remove the mandatory requirement for group performance as we are allowing monologues.</p> <p>If future public health restrictions stop text-based performances being completed and filmed in 2020/21 due to school closures, as per the outcome of the Ofqual consultation we will permit alternative evidence to be submitted, alongside the completed concept proforma (which includes learner’s intentions, their interpretation for the final piece, and evaluation of their own work) to illustrate the intended final piece.</p> <p>Examples of alternative evidence:</p> <p>For performers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audio-visual recording of acting performance alone without the need for fully designed set/lighting/costumes. • Either a complete and unedited audio-visual recording of the text-based performance and/or presentation of each discrete aspect/each learner’s individual contribution. <p>For designers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prototype of designed element, original photographs, drawings or annotated sketches of designs/annotated scripts/video or written account/physical demonstrations. • Original photographs, images, drawings or sketches with annotations to illustrate how the final drama piece was planned with an explanation of how designs would have been implemented in performance.

What has changed – Specification	Detail
	<p>Specific design component examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set Design: • Scale models of set design(s). • Written or verbal explanation of how set would have been implemented as part of the final performance. • Lighting and/or Sound: • Cue sheets and full lighting/sound designs. • Written or verbal account of equipment being used and explanation of how light/sound would have been implemented as part of the final performance. • Costume/Makeup: • Original photographs of costume sourced/made. • Written or verbal account of intentions behind costume and makeup designs.

Support

OCR's team of expert Subject Advisors has created videos, webinars, and other resources to guide you through these changes and help you prepare your students for their exams in summer 2021.

These resources can be found [here](#).

Contact Us

If you would like to contact us, you can do so at:

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