

## GCE Drama and Theatre Studies 2008

When planning the structure of the new four-unit specification, Edexcel created a format that maintained the essential content of the six-unit qualification as far as possible. This was approached by removing the less than popular AS Unit 3 and amalgamating A2 Units 4 and 5. Some modifications were required in order to satisfy the regulatory authorities and as a response to feedback from schools and colleges. The structure of the new specification, with the necessary modifications, are:

### Unit 1: Exploration of Drama and Theatre:

- maintains the requirement to explore two play texts chosen by centres
- the elements to be studied have been rationalised and reduced
- the structure of the *exploration notes* has been modified
- the requirement for students to experience live theatre performance has been taken from the old Unit 3 Section B and added to this unit in order to satisfy National Subject Criteria.

### Unit 2: Theatre Text in Performance:

- maintains the requirement for a group performance, externally assessed
- an additional requirement has been added; students are required to offer either a monologue or duologue for external assessment
- all elements of this unit are available to theatre design students.

### Unit 3: Exploration of Dramatic Performance:

- maintains the requirements of the old Unit 4 but incorporates the content of the old Unit 5.

### Unit 4: Theatre Text in Context:

- maintains the structure of the old Unit 6 written paper.
- three new set texts introduced
  - Aristophanes - *Lysistrata*
  - Marlowe - *Dr Faustus*
  - Buchner - *Woyzeck*
- maintains requirement for students to experience live theatre performance of particular historic periods but old unit requirement of 1575-1720 developed into greater choice of one of:
  - 525BC - AD65
  - 1564-1720
  - 1828-1914.