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Dear Head of Drama,

The first assessment for the GCSE 2009 Drama specification is in the June 2011 series. To support your delivery and assessment I am pleased to include with this letter important information and useful contact details.

Submission of Centre Marks for 5DR01 and 5DR02

Centres will receive the OPTEMS after final entries have been made. Upon receipt of the OPTEMS all students' marks must be entered on the OPTEMS. Separate instructions for the completion and submission of controlled assessment marks using OPTEMS will be provided on the back of each OPTEMS.

To make the moderation fairer and more robust for your students we have made a few minor changes to the way you submit your marks on the OPTEMS.

5DR01

You will receive two sets of OPTEMS. Here is how you should fill them in.

- Fill in the first OPTEMS with your marks for the practical exploration (six hours, marked out of 40).
- Fill in the second OPTEMS with your marks for the documentary response (2000 words, marked out of 20)

If you submit your marks using Edexcel Online you will also be invited to enter two separate sets of marks as per the above.

5DR02

In common with Unit 1, you need to submit two sets of marks for Unit 2.

- Fill in the first OPTEMS with your marks for the practical exploration (six hours, marked out of 30).
- Fill in the second OPTEMS with your marks for the documentary response and response to live theatre (3000 words, marked out of 30).

Again, if you submit your marks using Edexcel Online you will be invited to enter two separate sets of marks as per the above.

Documentary Response for 5DR01 and 5DR02

The work for the students identified on the OPTEMS with an asterisk (*) must be sent to the moderator. If the highest and lowest achieving students in the entire cohort are not asterisked on the OPTEMS, please also include them with the sample.

Practical Exploration for 5DR01 and 5DR02

Regardless of the total number of students you are entering, you must identify five of them to be sampled for the Practical Exploration.

In order that your students are fairly moderated please remember the following:

- These five students will appear on the sample session recording sent to your moderator.
- The filmed session should be representative of your cohort.
- The chosen students must consist of the highest and lowest achieving student in the session and three others with a range of attainment between these extremes.
- The five students must have their marks for the one recorded practical session submitted on the **Sample Session Record Card** and sent to the moderator.
- Both the sample recorded practical session for these five students, and the full six hour period for the entire cohort, must be marked using the same assessment criteria for Practical Exploration.

All students must have their final mark for the full six hours of practical assessment on the OPTEMS. As students' performance may vary between sessions, please note that the final marks for the five chosen students may be different to the marks awarded for the sample session submitted to the moderator.

Estimated Grades

The submission of estimated grades is an important contribution to the examining process. Please refer to the attached leaflet for some useful information about submitting estimated grades to Edexcel.

Grade Boundaries

In common with other subjects, grade boundaries for GCSE Drama have not yet been set. These are set at an Awarding Meeting of senior examiners. The grade boundaries cannot be set until live candidate work has been received and marked/moderated as the grade boundaries must be represented and reflect actual candidate work. The GCSE Drama grade boundaries will be published on results day in the Principal Examiners' reports.

UMS

UMS stands for Uniform Mark Scale. The Uniform Mark Scale is used to convert students' component 'raw' marks into uniform marks. UMS boundaries exist to ensure each GCSE, regardless of the awarding body, has parity to and is comparable with results from other GCSEs. More information regarding UMS conversion can be found at <http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/gcse-stats.aspx>

INSET

As our recent GCSE Drama INSET training courses have proved to be very popular, we have arranged some more sessions in London, Manchester and Leeds. Please visit our website (www.edexcel.com/training) for more details and to book your place.

You may also request customised training courses from the Training From Edexcel team by sending an email to customisedevents@edexcel.com

For any questions or concerns in this matter, please feel free to contact drama.assessment@edexcel.com

Yours sincerely

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