

IGCSE DRAMA (0411)

What is the required video length?

Each candidate must take part in **two** group pieces and **one** individual piece. Each group piece should last no longer than 15 minutes and must allow each candidate broadly equal exposure. Each group should be between 2 and 6 candidates.

We would like to introduce IGCSE Drama 0411, what needs to be in place in the school?

There are no special technical requirements but the Centre must have an adequate performing space.

As the coursework is assessed purely by video there must be arrangements for a professional standard videoing of selected work to take place. These arrangements must be available during the course, not just at the end. The video will have to be of sufficient standard to show the performances clearly and in detail. If the video is of poor quality it may affect the moderation of the Centre's marks.

What training is necessary for teachers running this programme, especially in terms of coursework and moderation of coursework?

The Centre marks the compulsory coursework component. It **must** therefore have a teacher experienced in teaching Drama at this level, preferably with experience of delivering and assessing IGCSE. If you do have such a teacher in your Centre we simply require their CV and any notes of their relevant experience.

Should I supply video evidence of planning and evaluation discussions and rehearsals as well as a performance and post performance evaluation?

No, the above video evidence is all that is required.

Are written evaluations of each element of coursework required?

No, the syllabus has changed and these are no longer required.

Is there a sample paper for the written component?

There is a specimen paper available from the IGCSE Drama page of this website.

In choosing 3 texts for study which can I use?

The texts must be published texts. If a copy of the text is unlikely to be available in the UK, a copy must be enclosed with the videos sent for moderation.

Can students use the pre-released material for any of their coursework pieces?

No.

If students use Forum Theatre as a form and involve the audience are they still restricted to 15 minutes only for their piece?

Yes, they are restricted to the 15 minutes regardless of what form they choose to undertake. The nature of Forum Theatre, whilst an acceptable dramatic style of working, will need to be adapted to fit the requirements of the examination.

Who is the best Practitioner to use for Physical Theatre?

The genre of Physical Theatre incorporates elements of Drama and Dance. Within Drama, Steven Berkoff's work encompasses an approach to physicality that represents the genre.

However, since Berkoff's use of language can be extremely gritty –as befits this genre - care should be taken in selecting extracts to ensure that the language is appropriate to the age and outlook of the candidates.

What does the syllabus mean by 'physicality'?

The term 'physicality' refers to an approach to Drama that is distinct from English Literature. We are not looking at text on paper; it needs to be brought to life. It also refers to the way in which actors make a role their own: a character needs to be physicalised (a la Stanislavski). One of the problems that IGCSE candidates often have is how to bring to life a character in a way that goes beyond reciting the lines. For a part to live, it needs to be physicalised.

How can an actor create the mood or atmosphere of a speech or passage?

In preparing a piece of repertoire, it is essential that each actor takes care to go beyond simply learning lines and saying them. Many IGCSE candidates have the idea that so long as they are fluent in saying their lines they will get a good mark. The meaning of what is being said must be central to the learning of the lines and the mood should be created through careful pacing, voice control, contrast and dynamics.

How should an actor approach performing individual characters?

There needs to be a very clear understanding of the role of the character within the drama. This should involve a consideration of age, motivation, relationships, vocal tone and accent. The context of the drama and the relationship with the other characters is obviously a vital aspect of this.

How do you portray time?

This depends on the style of the piece. If the extract is in a Naturalistic style, the movement of time at a faster pace than the action is extremely difficult to achieve. However, in the episodic style associated with Bertolt Brecht, time can be moved forward or backwards through back projection, narration, songs, the changing of costume or simple third-person address of the audience.

Is there a list of repertoire available?

We do not provide a list of repertoire as our Centres are likely to have a wide range of views of what suits their candidates, but Centres are welcome to ask if specific choices are suitable.

Must I provide written evidence to CIE that I am competent to set and mark the coursework?

Please provide a CV and any notes of relevant experience.

Is there a Distance Training Pack, such as the one for IGCSE music?

Not as yet, but it is being developed.

When you ask for an outline of a structure for a piece based on a stimulus, please explain exactly what you mean by structure in this context.

The way in which the parts of the piece are put together. For example, a piece may have a tripartite structure ABA where the opening and conclusion are similar but the middle is a contrast.

Regarding the individually devised work on the stimuli: may the students write a monologue, or should the piece involve more than one character?

It does not matter whether there is one group, several groups, one individual or several individuals. Of course, it is better if the work is undertaken as a group as this will enable the candidates to discuss their ideas when they are making up the piece. Since they will be working in groups for the text-based work, it is best if they continue working in groups for the drama devised from the stimuli. Individual work is not encouraged here. Writing a monologue is **not** in the spirit of the activity

Must this piece of drama be complete in itself, or could it be a 5 minute part of a longer piece?

The piece of drama must be complete in itself. There is no point in creating a section of a longer piece since the rest of it would have no impact on the assessment. Furthermore, the piece **must** be specifically created for the purpose of the assessment and based on the stimuli. It would not be acceptable to take an extract from a piece devised for any other purpose.

For the individual practical work, should the candidate look at the camera or past it, if the piece is a monologue?

When videoing a monologue, it is important that the candidate looks at wherever he/she would normally look. This is not TV drama and there is no need to deliver the piece to camera.

What sort of length is required for the 25 mark question on the written paper?

It is impossible to say how long the answer should be. Different candidates write at different speeds in examination conditions. While some candidates will struggle to write one side of A4 in 30 minutes, others will produce two sides in that time. The crucial thing is that they get to the point and do not deviate from the important points about the performance.