

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Cambridge IGCSE[®] Drama (0411)

FAQs – Support and resources

- What are the requirements for my school to introduce IGCSE Drama?
- When are the examinations taken?
- What resources are available to support Cambridge syllabuses?
- What textbooks are available for my subject?
- What training and professional development is available for my subject?
- How can I find out about any changes to the syllabus?
- What can students take into their exams?

Support and
resources

FAQs – Subject Content and Assessment

- When will I receive the pre-release material?
- What guidance is available for teachers in assessing IGCSE Drama coursework?
- If a performance is too short or too long how will this affect the marks?
- How important is it to stay within the stated group size?
- What file format should I use for the recordings?
- Can I use two cameras or a mobile camera for the recording?
- Should I supply recorded evidence of rehearsal and the devising process?
- Are written evaluations of the practical coursework required?
- What rules apply to the selection of repertoire?
- Is it acceptable for candidates to play across gender roles?
- Should the Individual Piece be played straight to camera?
- Should an audience be present during the recording?
- Can non-assessed actors be in a group piece?
- What are the expectations for costume and set?
- Can an extract from musical theatre be used for the group repertoire piece?

Subject Content and Assessment

Can't find the information you're looking for?

↔

Rate this resource

✓

FAQs – Support and resources

What are the requirements for my school to introduce IGCSE Drama?

There are no special technical requirements but the centre must have an adequate performing space. As the coursework is moderated by video recording there must be arrangements in place for the practical work to be recorded to a high standard. These arrangements must be available during the course, not just at the end. The recording will have to be of sufficient standard to show the performances clearly and in detail. If the DVD is of poor quality it may affect the moderation of the centre's marks.

Reference: [Syllabus](#)

Location: [Teacher Support](#)

[Back](#)

When are the examinations taken?

Information about when the examinations can be taken can be found in the syllabus, which you can download from Teacher Support or our public website.

Examination dates are listed in the exam timetable which you can download from our public website, or speak to the Examinations Officer at your centre.

Reference: [Syllabus / Exam timetable](#)

Location: [Teacher Support / Public Website](#)

[Back](#)

What resources are available to support Cambridge syllabuses?

Teaching resources can be found on the Teacher Support page for your syllabus.

For syllabuses, specimen papers, past papers, mark schemes and examiner reports look under the *Syllabus Materials* tab.

For support materials, including Schemes of Work* and Example Candidate Responses*, look under the *Teaching Materials* tab.

The *Resource List* tab directs you to endorsed and suggested resources including textbooks and websites. You can also access these from the Resource Centre on our public website.

For more details about the support types available, and how to use them for planning, preparing, teaching, assessing and revision, see our guide *Cambridge teacher support*, which can be downloaded from the Teacher Support homepage.

You can also visit our **Discussion Forums***, where teachers discuss resources and teaching methods, and you can ask questions and receive a response from our subject expert moderator or from other Cambridge teachers in our Community.

*where available

Reference: [Teacher Support Resources](#)

Location: [Teacher Support](#)

[Back](#)

What textbooks are available for my subject?

From the *Resource List* tab on the Teacher Support page for your syllabus you can search for textbooks for your subject. No particular book is necessary for a course and teachers are advised to choose the textbook that best suits their needs. Many of our syllabuses are supported by a range of different endorsed textbooks to ensure that schools have choice. There is information on the back of endorsed textbooks about which examination series it was first produced for.

Endorsed resources go through a rigorous quality-assurance process to make sure they closely reflect the syllabus and are appropriate for Cambridge schools worldwide. Resources may be 'endorsed for full syllabus coverage' or endorsed to cover specific sections, topics or approaches. Look for the specific 'endorsed for...' logo on the resource.

Reference: [Teacher Support Resources](#)

Location: [Teacher Support](#)

[Back](#)

FAQs – Support and resources

What training and professional development is available for my subject?

Cambridge online and face-to-face training courses are designed to support you by providing you with the knowledge and skills required to deliver our syllabuses. These can be booked through the Events and training calendar on our public website.

Reference: [Events and training calendar](#)

Location: [Public Website](#)

[Back](#)

How can I find out about any changes to the syllabus?

This information can be found on the inside cover of the syllabus, which can be downloaded from Teacher Support. Changes are described in detail within this section. Throughout the syllabus, any significant changes are indicated by black vertical lines either side of the text.

If a syllabus update document is listed next to a syllabus this is notification that the syllabus has been updated to reflect a change. The changes that have been made will be clearly indicated in the syllabus update.

Reference: [Syllabus](#)

Location: [Teacher Support](#)

[Back](#)

What can students take into their exams?

Guidance for use of equipment in examinations, including use of dictionaries and calculators, is provided in the Cambridge Handbook from our public website. A list of unauthorised materials is also included.

For help or information about administering qualifications it is often useful to speak to the Examinations Officer at your centre.

An unmarked copy of the pre-release material will be provided to candidates in the examination.

Reference: [Cambridge Handbook](#)

Location: [Public Website](#)

[Back](#)

FAQs – Subject Content and Assessment

When will I receive the pre-release material?

The pre-release material is despatched to centres in the December preceding the Written examination. Only centres that have submitted their estimated entry information to Cambridge will be eligible to receive the pre-release material.

Reference: [Syllabus](#)

Location: [Teacher Support](#)

[Back](#)

What guidance is available for teachers in assessing IGCSE Drama coursework?

The centre marks the compulsory coursework component and therefore the teacher must have experience in teaching Drama at this level, preferably with experience of delivering and assessing IGCSE. Teachers should work through the examples and advice in the Coursework Handbook available to download from Teachers Support, using the sample recordings to familiarise themselves with the Cambridge standard. Teachers' coursework marks are moderated by Cambridge.

Reference: [Coursework Handbook](#)

Location: [Teacher Support](#)

[Back](#)

FAQs – Subject Content and Assessment

If a performance is too short or too long how will this affect the marks?

The individual piece should be between 3 and 5 minutes in length. Slight under or overruns should not be penalised, but a performance that is significantly short would not normally be able to access the highest mark bands. Moderators may stop watching if the piece is significantly too long.

Group pieces should last no more than 15 minutes and allow each candidate broadly equal exposure. Smaller groups should expect to work for less than 15 minutes but not less than 10 minutes.

Reference: [Syllabus](#)

Location: [Teacher Support](#)

[Back](#)

How important is it to stay within the stated group size?

The prescribed group size is between two and six candidates. Groups of seven or more are not allowed as each candidate would not have enough exposure and it makes the task of the moderator very difficult.

Reference: [Syllabus](#)

Location: [Teacher Support](#)

[Back](#)

What file format should I use for the recordings?

We accept DVD recordings in either MPEG (.mpg) or QuickTime movie (.mov) formats. If you wish to submit work as mp4 or on USB please check with Cambridge first. Further details are available in the syllabus.

Reference: [Syllabus](#)

Location: [Teacher Support](#)

[Back](#)

Can I use two cameras or a mobile camera for the recording?

No, recordings should be a single unedited take from a static camera. The intention is not to produce a film of the performance but an accurate record from the perspective of the audience. Care should be taken to ensure the sound recording is adequate, particularly if the camera is positioned at the back of a hall some distance from the performers. Further details are available in the syllabus.

Reference: [Syllabus](#)

Location: [Teacher Support](#)

[Back](#)

Should I supply recorded evidence of rehearsal and the devising process?

No, only the final performance of each piece is required.

Reference: [Coursework Handbook](#)

Location: [Teacher Support](#)

[Back](#)

Are written evaluations of the practical coursework required?

No, these are not required.

Reference: [Coursework Handbook](#)

Location: [Teacher Support](#)

[Back](#)

FAQs – Subject Content and Assessment

What rules apply to the selection of repertoire?

We require repertoire to be taken from full length published plays intended for stage performance only. This could include published one-act plays but we advise centres not to use plays freely available on the internet, mini-plays or monologues written for classroom use, screenplays or material taken directly from novels.

Plays in translation are acceptable but the language of performance must be English. If you are using a play text that is unlikely to be available in the UK you should include a copy of the script with the DVD.

We do not provide a list of repertoire but the Principal Moderator's Report each year includes a selection of the repertoire that was chosen by candidates.

Reference: [Syllabus](#)

Location: [Teacher Support](#)

[Back](#)

Is it acceptable for candidates to play across gender roles?

Yes, it is acceptable to play across gender as long as the message of the drama is not affected. In the text-based work, candidates will be assessed on their understanding and performance of the character so they will need to be convincing in whatever role they take on.

[Back](#)

Should the Individual Piece be played straight to camera?

The piece should appear as a natural live theatre performance. There is no need to aim for a 'talking heads' approach.

Reference: [Syllabus](#)

Location: [Teacher Support](#)

[Back](#)

Should an audience be present during the recording?

It is generally good to have an audience to perform to and it can help the moderator to gain a sense of how well the piece was received, but any audience present should not be noisy or distract from the performance itself.

[Back](#)

Can non-assessed actors be in a group piece?

In general this should be avoided, but it would be acceptable where it would not otherwise be possible to submit group work. Non-assessed actors should not outnumber those being assessed and should play minor or supporting roles. It is not acceptable to submit a recording of a school production of a play in which the candidates took part. The piece must be performed specifically for the purpose of IGCSE Drama coursework.

[Back](#)

What are the expectations for costume and set?

There are no specific requirements to use costume or set for the Individual or Group pieces, but centres are advised that costume or set which distracts from the intention or effective performance of the piece should be avoided, for example a candidate wearing a T-shirt which starkly contrasts with the character or style of the piece, or excessive use of tables and chairs which impede actors' movement.

Reference: [Syllabus](#)

Location: [Teacher Support](#)

[Back](#)

Can an extract from musical theatre be used for the group repertoire piece?

Yes, but music and songs should not dominate the piece to the extent that it is impossible to assess each candidate on their acting as opposed to musical skills.

[Back](#)

Can't find the information you're looking for?

[Back](#)

If you have a syllabus or teaching related question which has not been answered here, and you've read the syllabus and supporting resources on **Teacher Support**, have a look at the information on our **Help** pages.

For individual assessment queries or centre-specific enquiries, contact our Customer Services team either by email at info@cambridgeinternational.org, by **web form** or by calling us on +44 1223 553554.