

Special Curriculum for Excellence Update: Higher Drama (September 2013)

This Update letter contains important advice and guidance on revisions to the Course requirements for the new Curriculum for Excellence Higher Drama Course and will support your planning for its implementation from August 2014.

Key messages

Course assessment

We are developing the specimen question paper and Coursework information based on the following requirements.

Guidance on texts

- ◆ We will provide guidance on suitable texts which will replace the 'prescribed texts list'. This advice will provide range, breadth and depth, to allow candidates suitable opportunities to explore the areas of acting, directing and design. The advice will cover a range of classical and contemporary drama, world drama and Scottish drama.
- ◆ Centres are free to select their own texts for course assessment. Centres should ensure their selected texts have sufficient depth and scope for their candidates, and ensure parity for the roles of acting, directing and design.

Updated guidance on selection of texts and a list of recommended texts will be included in the updated *Course and Unit Support Notes*.

Unit assessment

Corrections and clarifications

We are developing Unit assessment support packs based on the following requirements.

A number of changes are being made to requirements in both the *Drama Skills* and *Drama: Production Skills* Unit Specifications. These are minor corrections and clarifications, and do not represent any fundamental changes to the aims or assessment of the Units.

The new requirements are:

Higher *Drama Skills* Unit Specification

Use complex drama skills by:

- ◆ responding to stimuli, including text, to develop ideas for drama
- ◆ exploring form, genre, structure and style

- ◆ developing and communicating ideas

Contribute creatively to the drama by:

- ◆ planning, devising and directing a drama
- ◆ using complex acting skills to portray character to an audience
- ◆ evaluating their own work and that of others

Higher Drama: Production Skills Unit Specification

Use complex production skills in drama by:

- ◆ responding to stimuli, including text, to explore ideas for a production
- ◆ developing and communicating ideas for production roles

Apply complex production skills in drama by:

- ◆ selecting appropriate ideas to develop a performance concept for an audience
- ◆ demonstrating complex production skills within selected production roles
- ◆ evaluating their work and that of others

Revised Course requirements for Higher Drama will be published by May 2014 after the development of assessment support materials for Higher is complete.