

Frequently Asked Questions

6341 (Exploration of drama and theatre)

6344 (Devising) Coursework

What are units 6341/6344?

These are coursework units that are marked internally by centres and moderated externally by an Edexcel moderator.

When will I hear about who my moderator will be?

Details of your allocated moderator will appear on the OPTEMS, which are sent by Edexcel to your examinations officer. Centres will be notified of their moderator shortly before the coursework deadline. The OPTEMS will indicate, with an asterisk, which candidates' work needs to be sent to the moderator. Please ensure that you send all the asterisked candidates' work, along with the work of the highest marked and lowest marked candidates.

When is the coursework deadline?

May 15th 2007

What happens if I miss the coursework deadline?

Your work will arrive late to the Moderator and they will not be obliged to moderate it. If there are exceptional circumstances to you missing the coursework deadline, please write to the Drama Assessment Team explaining why.

Should I attend a Centre Standardisation meeting for 6341/6344 this year?

Meetings are being held in Autumn 2005. We strongly recommend that new teachers to the Specification attend a centre standardisation meeting. If you have attended previously it is not essential you attend. A centre standardisation pack is available to purchase from Edexcel Publications on 01623 467467 if you are unable to attend the meeting.

How many marks are available for 6341?

This unit is marked out of 60. 30 marks are available for the exploration elements 1 - 5 (exploration notes) and 30 marks are available for the exploration elements 6 - 10 (practical work).

How do I mark 6341?

By referral to the Assessment Criteria printed in the specification.

How many marks are available for 6344?

This unit is marked out of 80. 60 marks are available for the devising process (20 marks to demonstration of knowledge and understanding and 40 marks to developing and shaping ideas) and 20 marks are available for the communication of ideas.

How do I mark 6344?

By referral to the Assessment Criteria printed in the specification.

How do I choose my sample of candidates for 6341/6344?

The candidates required by the moderator will be indicated by an asterix on the OPTEMS forms. Centres must also send the work of the highest and lowest candidate in the centre as a whole.

When will I receive my OPTEMs for 6341/6344?

For both units OPTEMs are sent to your centre's examinations officer in April. You should follow the instructions printed on the forms.

Will my moderator ask for any further work for 6341/6344?

Moderators may request further work after the initial sample has been received. Centres must be prepared to send all candidates' work if necessary.

6342 (Text in Performance I)

6345 (Text in Performance II) Performance Examinations

What are units 6342/6345?

These units are externally assessed performance papers which are examined by an Edexcel appointed visiting examiner. These units are treated in the same way as any other externally assessed script based examination.

When will I hear who my visiting examiner will be?

Visiting examiners are being trained throughout January. Allocations will be organised and examiners will contact centres directly, by telephone, throughout February.

When should the performance examinations take place?

The examinations can take place between February and the end of May 2007.

How do I arrange the examination date with my examiner?

Your examiner will contact your centre by telephone during February and it is during this conversation that a mutually agreeable date is arranged.

I need to contact my Examiner - can I have their details?

No. We are not at liberty to disclose any contact details for any examiner. You must wait until they contact you by telephone.

My examiner has not contacted me - what shall I do?

Please wait until March 2007 before contacting Edexcel. If you have not heard at all from your Examiner by March, check that you have made estimated entries and then contact the Drama Assessment Team.

What do I do if my allocated examiner cannot make the dates I specify?

It is best to be as flexible as possible when arranging performance examination dates. If your examiner cannot agree to any dates you offer then the examiner will contact the rest of their team to see if anyone can take over. You do not have to contact the Board, it will be re-arranged automatically.

What happens if I do not get allocated an examiner or if my examiner cannot make the examination due to unforeseen circumstances?

We make every effort to ensure that all centres are allocated a visiting examiner. In the unlikely event that we are unable to allocate your centre to an examiner, or your examiner has to withdraw at a late stage, we would ask you to send the video(s)/DVD(s) of the performances to your examiner, who will forward the video(s)/DVD(s) to their Team Leader or Assistant Principal Examiner to examine. You may include observations of the performance seen live and suggest a rank order of candidates.

We were not happy with our visiting examiner last year - what should we do?

You should write to the Drama Assessment team with full details. We try to ensure, as much as possible, that centres are not allocated the same examiner every year but this is not always possible.

If a centre refuses their allocated examiner, we will not send a replacement examiner. Instead, centres will be required to send the video/DVD of the performance(s) to the examiner to be assessed.

How many days can I request a visiting examiner for?

An examining period is defined as approximately 3 hours in a centre during which an examiner is expected to mark at least 18 candidates (AS and A2). Centres with fewer than 18 candidates in total will only be allotted one 3 hour visit.

Do I have to video all the performance examinations?

Yes. Every performance should be recorded to provide evidence of the work undertaken in the examination. This is used in the event of an Enquiry about Results (EAR) and to monitor examiners during the examination period. If you do not video and submit the video (VHS format)/DVD to the examiner within 7 working days of the performance exam then you will not be entitled to an Enquiry about Results.

What format should the video take?

Videos **must** be submitted to the examiner in **Standard VHS** format.

Can I submit a DVD of the performance instead?

Yes. As of Summer 2006 we will accept submission of performances on DVD as well as video.

What is the minimum / maximum group size for 6342 & 6345?

6342 - Between 3 and 9 performers, and up to 3 design candidates.

6345 - Between 3 and 6 performers, up to 3 design candidates and 1 director.

Centres are strongly advised to not exceed these numbers.

How long should the 6342 performance last?

It will depend on the number of candidates in the performance but must be between 30 and 60 minutes maximum.

How long should the 6345 performance last?

It will depend on the number of candidates in the performance but must be between 15 and 30 minutes maximum.

What do the design / directing candidates have to do on the day of the examination?

Design and Directing (6345 only) candidates must give presentation to the visiting examiner that may last up to a maximum of 10 minutes, preferably before the performance takes place. Presentations must be recorded. Their chosen skill or craft should be demonstrated throughout the performance.

6343 (Text in Context I) /6346 (Text in Context II) Written Examinations

What are units 6343/6346?

These are script based examinations which are taken annually in the Summer examination series.

When will I hear who my examiner is for units 6343 and 6346?

Your examiner will be different for each unit. Your examinations officer will be notified of their name and address shortly before the examination takes place. You should send the work to the named examiner as soon as possible after the examination has taken place.

How many sides of notes can candidates take into the examination for 6343?

10 pages of notes. You may use both sides of an A4 sheet and one side only of an A3 sheet. In total you can use 20 sides of A4 and 10 sides of A3.

How many sides of notes can candidates take into the examination for 6346?

Research Notes - 10 pages of notes. You may use both sides of an A4 sheet and one side only of an A3 sheet. In total you can use 20 sides of A4 and 10 sides of A3.

Why are the number of notes restricted to 10 pages?

Candidates will not have much time to refer to detailed notes and complete the examination paper in the time allowed - they must answer all the questions required.

Can I take my copy of the annotated text of *The Beggar's Opera* or *The Trojan Women* into the examination for Section A of 6346?

Yes. The studied text can be taken into the examination and should be retained by the centre after the examination has taken place.

Can I take a copy of the text studied for Section B of the 6346 examination?

No. Only the 10 pages of notes as prescribed.

What do we do with the research notes for the 6346 examination after it has taken place?

They should be safely retained in the centre until end September 2007. Edexcel may request that centres send the notes to the Examiner in the event of a query.

Will the format of the examinations be the same as June 2006?

Yes. The format remains the same as the 6343 and 6346 examinations that took place in Summer 2006.

Are the play texts for 6346 still *The Beggar's Opera* and *The Trojan Women*?

Yes, these texts were chosen and approved by QCA for the duration of this specification.

Where can I get copies of *The Beggar's Opera* and *The Trojan Women*?

They can be downloaded from the website www.edexcel.org.uk or obtained from Publications on 01623 467 467.

Do we have to use the Edexcel versions of *The Beggar's Opera* and *The Trojan Women*?

Yes. In the examination paper we will refer to page numbers which may not be the same in other versions of the texts. However, we do also print the extract we refer to in the examination paper itself. However, we strongly advise centres to use the Edexcel versions.

I am unable to see a production of the play prescribed for 6346 - what do I do?

You should find a video version of the STAGE production of the chosen play OR refer to the Qualifications Development team (0870 240 9800) for further guidance.

Can I get hold of past examination papers for 6343/6346?

Yes, they can be obtained from Edexcel publications on 01623 467467.

If my candidates do not do very well, can they retake the written examinations?

Yes, both 6343 and 6346 can be re-taken but not until the following summer. We do not offer re-takes of either examinations in January.

I have a candidate who wishes to re-take 6343. Can they write about their Unit 5 performance in Section A?

No. Candidates **must** write about Unit 2 in Section A of 6343, regardless of whether they are re-sitting the paper.

General

Can I get another copy of the Instructions for Conduct (ICE) booklet?

Further copies are available to download from the website.

Can we get the proformas for all units on disk?

No, we do not provide disks but the ICE can be downloaded from the website and saved.

Can I have a copy of the specification?

Yes, it can be downloaded from the website or ordered from publications.

Can I request INSET?

Yes, your examinations officer should have the details. You can book yourself on to a course by contacting the Edexcel INSET team.

How do I apply for Special consideration?

You should write in with the appropriate form (found in the examinations officer manual or the information manual) to the Special Requirements team.