



AS/A Level Performance Studies

(Available for teaching from September 2008)

This specification gives candidates the opportunity to develop a multi-disciplinary approach to the Performing Arts as they expand their imagination, sensitivity and artistic knowledge of dance, drama and music.



What are the benefits to me and my students of delivering this OCR specification?

- There's a great focus on practical performance work with the opportunity for candidates to perform existing pieces and devise original material of their own.
- Practical performance skills are assessed at both AS and A2 levels and an examiner will visit your centre at A2 level.
- It cuts the assessment burden on students with the number of units reduced to four (two at AS, two at A2).
- New practitioners and topics give candidates more variety.
- This new specification is excellent preparation for students wishing to pursue careers in or around the performing arts, or to study them at higher levels.

AS Level

Unit title	Description	Mandatory/Optional?
Creating Performance	Elements include skills-based workshops in individual art forms, a short piece in each individual art form (dance, drama and music), a longer piece that combines elements of all 3 art forms to be performed in a community venue. A written commentary on the practical work and a performance of the longer community piece are assessed.	Mandatory
Performance Contexts 1	Candidates study two practitioners, each from a different section. Section A: Shobana Jeyasingh; Matthew Bourne; Lloyd Newson Section B: Caryl Churchill; Athol Fugard; John Godber Section C: The Beatles; George Gershwin; John Adams	Mandatory

A2 Level

Unit title	Description	Mandatory/Optional?
Performance Contexts 2	Candidates study nine extracts (three from dance, three from drama and three from music) from one of the following topics. Topic 1: Post-Modern Approaches to the Performing Arts since 1960 Topic 2: Politics and Performance since 1914 Topic 3: The Twentieth Century American Musical Topic 4: Approaches to Performance in the Far East	Mandatory
Performance Project	Candidates undertake two performance assessments. These are: A performance realisation of one of the works from which they have studied in either Performance Contexts 1 or 2. A student devised performance produced in response to a commission chosen from a selection set by OCR.	Mandatory

How is this qualification assessed?

Unit 1 is internally assessed coursework, Units 2 and 3 are externally assessed written examinations, while Unit 4 is externally assessed practical examination marked by a visiting examiner.

Examination series are available every January and June.

Unit 4 (Performance Project) is only available in the June series.

Dates of first examinations

AS

First examination available from January 2009.

A2

First examination available from January 2010.

What support will I receive?

Training

A full range of INSET courses for both new and experienced teachers.

Publishers

OCR will endorse resources published by Hodder to support this specification.

Resources

You can download all the following resources from the OCR website – www.ocr.org.uk.

- Specimen question papers and mark schemes for the written examination papers and the practical unit commissions will be available.
- Exemplar work for all elements of the specification will be provided. For example sample coursework commentaries, sample candidate responses for written papers and DVD material of practical work.
- Suggested approaches to the units will be available in the Teacher's Guide.

For more information please contact the OCR Customer Contact Centre on **01223 553998**, or visit www.ocr.org.uk where you can join the thriving Performance Studies e-community.