This guide is designed to take you though the J316 OCR Drama sample exam paper. Its aim is to explain how candidates should approach the paper and how marks are awarded to the different questions. The advice given is the same for all questions across all of the set texts as question wording and structure is consistent.

The guidance uses the question structure of the Sample Assessment Material to walk you through these details. In future exam papers, this structure can vary over time, as indicated later, but the skills targeted and the construction of tasks will reflect the range explored here. Papers can include tasks with images or other stimuli, tasks which ask candidates to complete tables, and so on, but these questions could vary in structure (e.g. tables could be longer or shorter than that in the SAM) and in the number of marks allocated to the task, depending on the complexity or detail required to complete the task.

This exam assesses AO3 (30% of the qualification) and AO4 (10% of the qualification). Section A will always assess AO3, and the range of tasks will always add up to 50 marks, and is worth 25% of the total marks for the qualification. Section B is out of 30 marks and is worth 15% of the total qualification.

The non-examined assessment (NEA) assesses AO1 (20% of the qualification), AO2 (30% of the qualification) and AO4 (10% of the qualification).
Guidance

The orange text boxes offer further explanation on the questions in the Sample Assessment Materials. They offer guidance on the wording of questions and what candidates should do in response to them.

For example: Candidates should know that the term ‘performance text’ means their set text, or the play they have studied.

The green text boxes focus on the awarding of marks for each question. They give further information on the percentage of each assessment objective attributed to each question.

AO3 (5%)
Section A

You are advised to spend about 55 minutes on this section.

Blood Brothers – Willy Russell
Death of a Salesman – Arthur Miller
Find Me – Olwen Wymark
Gizmo – Alan Ayckbourn
Kindertransport – Diane Samuels
Missing Dan Nolan – Mark Wheeller
Misterman – Enda Walsh

State the performance text you have studied: .................................................................

Candidates should know that the term ‘performance text’ means their set text, or the
play they have studied.

This will ensure the examiner knows which play the candidates are writing about. The
candidate must write about the same set text for all their answers.

The list of set texts will be printed in italics. Candidates may wish to underline or circle the
texts they have studied as well as writing the play name below.

There are a total of 50 marks available in Section A. This means that candidates should spend approximately 1 minute answering the question for each mark available. This leaves 5 minutes to go back to any questions they wish to add to.

For example: when answering a six mark question, candidates should spend about 6 minutes on the answer.
1. Select one line from the list below. Explain how it has an impact on this character in the performance text you have studied.

**Blood Brothers**

‘Edward: Well, my mummy doesn’t allow me to play down here actually’

**Death of a Salesman**

‘Happy: See, Biff, everybody around me is so false that I’m constantly lowering my ideals…’

Questions will ask candidates to answer the question in relation to the performance text they have studied.

All questions are compulsory in the paper. All candidates should answer all questions referring to their set text only. They do not need to answer questions about texts they have not studied.

Candidates need to write their answers in the space provided. It is expected that the lines provided will be enough space for the most detailed answers.

The instruction will normally be at the start of the sentence. In questions which assess only AO3, these words can include:

- List
- Name
- State
- Identify
- Give
- Select
- Describe
- Define
- Annotate
- Explain
- Compare
- Contrast
- How could
- Explore
- Discuss
- To what extent
- Justify
- Assess

Where there are specific options from the set text in the question, the name of the play will be in **bold** and **italics**.

The marks available will be printed after the space for the answer in Section A.

This question assesses AO3 and is worth 8% of the total marks for Section A.

A 4 mark question is worth 2% towards the overall qualification.
2. Select one stage design from the photographs below. Justify why this could be suitable for a production of the performance text you have studied.


Candidates need to write their answers in the space provided.

Where stimulus is provided for a question these lines may be on the next page.

This question assesses AO3 and is worth 8% of the total marks for Section A.

Questions with stimuli can vary in length and number of marks, and can appear anywhere in Section A.

Where images are provided, they will be printed in colour where it is deemed necessary.

This is just to indicate the location of the images in the paper.

Questions will ask candidates to answer the question in relation to the performance text they have studied.

Again, the instruction will be at the start of the sentence. In questions which assess only AO3, these words can include:

- List
- Name
- State
- Identify
- Give
- Select
- Describe
- Define
- Annotate
- Explain
- Compare
- Contrast
- How could
- Explore
- To what extent
- Justify
- Assess

Questions will ask candidates to answer the question in relation to the performance text they have studied.

This question assesses AO3 and is worth 8% of the total marks for Section A.
3. Select the character from the performance text you have studied:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blood Brothers</th>
<th>Mrs Lyons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Find Me</td>
<td>Jean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindertransport</td>
<td>Faith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misterman</td>
<td>Mrs Cleary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death of a Salesman</td>
<td>Linda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gizmo</td>
<td>Bernice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing Dan Nolan</td>
<td>Greg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Complete the table below by listing **three** ways in which an actor could use their voice to portray this character. Justify your choices with examples from the performance text you have studied.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use of Voice</th>
<th>Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where there is set text specific information, questions may appear after the options are listed. This is to ensure that the question is clearer on the page for candidates to answer.

Where there are specific options from the set text in the question, the name of the play will be in **bold** and *italics*.

This question assesses AO3 and is worth 12% of the total marks for Section A.

A 6 mark question is worth 3% towards the overall qualification.

The space provided for candidates will match the requirements of the question.

For example, in this table, candidates should write three ways voice can be used, and justify each one. Three rows have been provided underneath each column to fit this requirement.

Questions with a table can vary in length and number of marks, and can appear anywhere in Section A.
4. Explain, using examples from the performance text you have studied, how stage directions can be used to support the actors in communicating their role to the audience.

5. Compare the advantages and disadvantages for an actor when presenting the performance text you have studied 'in the round'.
6. Discuss how a director could stage the opening of the performance text you have studied to engage the audience from the start. You may refer to the direction of the performers and/or design of the scene in your answer.

Questions may refer to a specific part of the play that candidates have studied. These will not be stated as scene numbers or titles. Where a specific moment in the play is referred to, these will be described as an event. They will appear in a similar format to the quotes used in question 1.

For example: *Blood Brothers* Mickey and Eddie meet for the first time.

Questions may have built in optionality within them. These questions will include ‘and/or’ between the options. In these situations, candidates may write about directing the performers, how the scene could be designed, or a combination of both.

This question assesses AO3 and is worth 16% of the total marks for Section A.

An 8 mark question is worth 4% towards the overall qualification.
7. Describe **one** suitable costume for a character from the performance text you have studied. Justify why your choices are appropriate. In your answer, name the character from the performance text you have studied and include a sketch of your design with annotations in your answer.

You may use this page for a sketch and annotations. No marks are available for the quality of the sketch.

Where sketches are accepted as part of the answer, space will be provided after the lines for any writing. Questions with sketches can vary in length and number of marks, and can appear anywhere in Section A.

Naming the character will ensure the examiner knows which character from the play the candidates is writing about. This should be clearly written either at the start of their answer or as a heading and should be easily identifiable by the examiner.

Sketches may be completed using HB pencil. There are no marks available for the quality of the drawing.

The design idea, along with their justification are assessed for the answer.

The marks available will be printed after the writing space where the space for sketches is on a different page to the question.

This question assesses AO3 and is worth 8% of the total marks for Section A.
8. Explain, using two examples, how the social and/or historical context can be seen in the performance text you have studied.

Every paper will include at least one question on context. These questions can vary in length and number of marks and can appear anywhere in Section A.

Questions on context may include any combination of social, cultural and/or historical context and the theatrical conventions of the period in which the performance texts were created.

The question(s) may refer to any of these specific areas. Therefore, candidates need to know the difference between social, cultural and historical context.

In this question, these examples may both be social context, both historical context, or one of each.

Questions may have built in optionality within them. These questions will include ‘and/or’ between the options.

This question assesses AO3 and is worth 16% of the total marks for Section A.
Section B

All candidates are required to answer the question in Section B.

9* Evaluate the visual impact a live production had on you as an audience member. You must include examples from the live performance you have seen in your answer. At the start of your answer state the name, venue and date (month and year) of the live performance you have seen.

Candidates will be asked about ‘a live performance’ or ‘a live production’. These terms mean the same thing.

Details of what can be used as a live performance can be found in the specification in Appendix.

Candidates answer on a performance they have seen during their course of study. Providing this detail will support the examiner if candidates have not been specific about the play in their answers.

This question assesses AO3 (5% of the qualification) and AO4 (10% of the qualification).

A 30 mark question is worth 15% towards the overall qualification.

This element of the question is targeted at AO4 which requires candidates to analyse or evaluate the work of others.

The question will have a specific aspect of a production that it will focus on. This will be related to the acting, design, direction and/or the characteristics of the play (including genre) the candidates have seen.

This question asks about visual aspects of the play, which can be linked to acting and design.

Section B will always contain the final question in the paper. This is a compulsory question for all candidates.