



**WESTMINSTER  
SCHOOL**

**The Challenge**  
Specialism Paper

**DRAMA**

**Syllabus and Guidance**

First Examination 2027

# Introduction

The Drama department is offering pupils the opportunity to audition for a Drama specialism at Westminster. This is a specialism award that will go towards The Challenge. You will need to learn two monologues. They should be no longer than one to two minutes long and must be fully memorised. Do not bring props or costumes. Students should also be prepared to discuss their monologues and be redirected. Below is a guide to picking your monologues.

**Piece 1:** Post-1990 modern play.

**Piece 2:** Classical piece (Shakespeare, Marlowe, or Webster)

## Top tips for selecting your pieces

At Westminster, we want to see pupils who can show authenticity and vulnerability in their performances. We also want to generate a strong sense of *you* and why you are passionate about Drama. Here are some guidelines for choosing a monologue:

1. **Play your age (or very close to it):** Avoid playing characters significantly older or younger than you. The panel wants to see you playing what you believe you may be cast as. With the classical piece that can be more difficult but go for the younger roles.
2. **Read the whole play:** Do not just pick a monologue from the internet. Never perform a monologue from a script you have not read. You must understand the character's full arc and journey, and the context of the scene. You must know your relationship to the other characters. You will be asked questions, and so you need to know the play.
3. **Use your natural accent:** Stick to your natural voice. Clarity matters more than an attempted accent that might distract.
4. **Choose contrast:** Your two pieces should show two completely different characters to highlight your range.
5. **Keep it naturalistic:** Avoid excessively stylised or experimental monologues. Grounded, truthful work will serve you best.

## Recommended Playwrights

Finding the right monologue can take time. Consider looking at these respected playwrights for inspiration. These writers are a strong starting point, though you're welcome to look beyond them:

- **Modern (Post-1990):** Simon Stephens, James Graham, Caryl Churchill, Conor McPherson, Lucy Prebble, Enda Walsh, Laura Wade, Polly Stenham, Jez Butterworth and Patrick Marber.
- **Classical:** William Shakespeare: *As You Like It*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Twelfth Night*, or *The Winter's Tale*, John Webster, or Christopher Marlowe. Classical parts can be cross-gender.