

Cambridge IGCSE™

DRAMA**0411/11**

Paper 1

May/June 2026

COPY OF PRE-RELEASE MATERIAL

2 hours 30 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS

- The questions in Paper 1 will be based on the **two** play extracts provided in this booklet.
- This copy of the pre-release material is for you to use in your responses.



This document has **28** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

EXTRACT 1

Adapted from Martin Crimp's modern version of Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull*

These notes are intended to help you understand the context of the extract.

Chekhov's play premièred in 1896, and the modern version was first performed in 2006 at the National Theatre, London.

The play is in four acts and the extract is adapted from Act One.

Act One is set in the country estate of PIOTR SORIN, a retired civil servant. His sister, IRINA ARKÁDINA, is an actress who has arrived at the estate with her friend ALEKSEI TRIGORIN, a writer.

Chekhov uses the device known as a play-within-a-play and the characters gather around an outdoor stage to watch a play written by ARKÁDINA's son, KONSTANTIN TREPLIEV.

KONSTANTIN's play features NINA ZARÉCHNAYA, a young woman who lives with her controlling father on a neighbouring estate. KONSTANTIN's play turns out to be incomprehensible to the audience and provokes ridicule, although it receives some praise from the doctor, EVGENYI DORN.

Chekhov referred to the play as a comedy and there are some comic elements in it.

CHARACTERS

IRINA ARKÁDINA	an actress
KONSTANTIN TREPLIEV	her son
PIOTR SORIN	her brother, and owner of the estate
NINA ZARÉCHNAYA	a young woman, daughter of the rich landowner of the neighbouring estate
ILYA SHAMRAEV	a retired lieutenant who manages SORIN's estate
POLINA SHAMRAEV	his wife
MASHA SHAMRAEV	their daughter
ALEKSEI TRIGORIN	a successful writer of fiction
EVGENYI DORN	a doctor
SEMYON MEDVIEDENKO	a teacher
YAKOV	a workman

ACT ONE

Evening. A terrace at the back of the house on SORIN's estate.

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EXTRACT 2

Adapted from Ian Wooldridge's stage version of George Orwell's novel *Animal Farm*

These notes are intended to help you understand the context of the extract.

Ian Wooldridge's stage version of George Orwell's 1945 novel *Animal Farm* was first performed in Glasgow, in March 1982. The extract comes from the first two-thirds of the play.

Orwell's novel has been described as a 'fairy story' – a simple tale that is used to communicate a deeper message. Orwell uses the story of a takeover of a farm by a group of animals as an allegory for the way in which power corrupts in human society. The original rules – made by the animals at the point they took over – gradually get changed to suit the purposes of those in authority.

CHARACTERS

STORYTELLER

The Pigs:

MAJOR

NAPOLEON

SQUEALER

SNOWBALL

MINIMUS

The Horses:

BOXER

CLOVER

MOLLIE

BENJAMIN (*a donkey*)

MOSES (*a raven*)

MR JONES (*the farmer, non-speaking*)

Assorted PIGS, PIGEONS, DOGS, GEESE, SHEEP, HENS

STORYTELLER: Mr Jones of the Manor Farm locked the hen-houses for the night, drew himself a last glass of beer from the barrel in the scullery, and fell asleep in his armchair, alongside Mrs Jones.

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LIVE ANIMAL FARM!

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