

Drama & Theatre Studies

Drama & Theatre Studies is an exciting and dynamic choice at A Level, opening pathways to further study in drama and a wide range of other subjects. This course is excellent preparation for careers in the arts and cultivates skills highly valued by universities and employers.

Students develop practical, creative, and communication skills through active participation in drama productions and theatre visits. The course also involves analysing and writing about plays, studying theatre practitioners and critiquing productions, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the theatrical world. This balanced approach nurtures well-rounded, confident, and articulate individuals ready for diverse future opportunities. The course builds valuable transferable skills in collaboration, creativity, project management, and communication.



COURSE CONTENT

During the two-year course, students will undertake practical work and study plays, genres, and theatre practitioners.

The subject content for A Level Drama & Theatre is divided into three components:

Drama and Theatre

Students must develop knowledge and understanding of the following analytical framework for making, performing, interpreting and understanding drama and theatre.

- Set Plays: Students will study and explore practically two set texts.
- Live theatre production: Students will learn how to analyse and evaluate the work of live theatre makers.

Creating Original Drama

Students will be assessed practically as a performer, designer or director. They will work in groups to create a piece of devised drama and a working notebook, influenced by the methodologies of a prescribed theatre practitioner.

Making Theatre

Students will be assessed practically as a performer, designer or director. Over two years students will practically explore and interpret three extracts, each taken from a different play.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of the two-year course, all course content is examined. The assessment consists of two coursework components and one externally examined paper.

Component 1: Drama and Theatre

Written examination. Open book. Three sections. 3 hours. 40% of final marks.

- Section A: Drama Through the Ages
- Section B: 20th and 21st Century Drama
- Section C: Live Theatre Production

Component 2: Creating Original Drama

Coursework. 30% of final marks.

- Working Notebook
- Devised Performance

Component 3: Making Theatre

Coursework. 30% of final marks.

- Performance of Extract 3
- Reflective Report

ENRICHMENT

The department offers regular theatre trips throughout the course include National Theatre productions and visiting practitioners running workshops. Co-curricular productions offer further chances to develop performance and technical skills. Sixth-form students also develop personal skills by helping run Drama clubs.

FUTURE PATHWAYS

The AQA Drama and Theatre Studies course is highly regarded by major institutions as preparation for students considering acting or drama studies at university, acting schools and careers in the creative industry such as Director, Stage Manager, Television Producer and Radio Presenter. It also provides a foundation for careers in law, social work, psychology, and teaching.

Valuable skills gained can prepare students for performing in interviews, delivering presentations and thriving in future work environments.



EXAM BOARD
AQA 7262

SKILLS REQUIRED

GCSE Drama is desirable, but we do not insist on it. More important, is that students have an open and inquiring mind, literary skills, genuine interest and/or broader experience of theatre, a willingness to work collaboratively and a creative instinct for communicating ideas through the medium of drama.

Students will also be expected to visit the theatre as often as they can in their spare time and must be prepared to read widely about the subject.



Hear from our
Students

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