
DRAMA

Exam Board: Edexcel



Aims of the Course

The Drama and Theatre Studies A Level course will:

- Encourage students to develop interest in and enjoyment of drama and theatre, both through experience as audience members and through their development of theatre skills.
- Encourage students' knowledge and understanding of social and cultural contexts of drama and theatre, through detailed study of dramatic texts and of the work of theatre practitioners.
- Develop students' ability to respond critically and sensitively to a range of dramatic texts and to relevant issues.
- In this course, students should develop as confident and independent interpreters of drama and theatre. The course should broaden and deepen their knowledge, skills and understanding of this creative medium.

Types of Learning Experience:

Knowledge, understanding and skills are gained through practical exploration of texts and practitioners, classroom discussions, personal reading and research and visits to professional and amateur productions. Students will also perform a studio production of one of their set texts.

Link Subjects:

Drama and Theatre studies may be taken with any other subject. Combinations have included English Literature and Language, Psychology, History, Sociology, Law.

Progressing to Higher Education:

Drama and Theatre Studies is a demanding yet highly enjoyable course focusing on students' abilities to both create and analyse theatre. It is a recognised advanced level subject to University and Higher Education and is a useful stepping stone to further study in Creative and Performing Arts, English, Law and Media as well as other areas.

Careers

Drama and Theatre Studies is especially relevant to those wishing to pursue careers in Performing Arts (acting, directing, technical, theatre management) or in any career where communication and presentation skills are needed (Law, Teaching, Management).

Entry requirements:

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE grade 4-9 including English and Maths. GCSE Drama or Btec Performing Arts is desirable

Component 1

Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre

Study of two set plays, - drama before 1900 and 20th/21st Century drama
Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

Assessment:

Written exam: 3 hours
Open book- 80 marks
40% of A-level

Component 2

Process of creating devised drama

Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer, designer or director)

Assessment:

Working notebook (40 marks)
Devised performance (20 marks)
30% of A level
Marked by teachers and moderated by AQA

Component 3

Exploration of Dramatic Performance

Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts (Extract 1, 2 and 3) each taken from a different play

Extract 3 is to be performed as a final assessed piece (students may contribute as performer, designer or director)

Reflective report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts

Assessment:

Performance of Extract 3 (40 marks)
Reflective report (20 marks)
60 marks in total
30% of A-level

