

Drama A Level (AQA)

Course description

This qualification emphasises practical creativity alongside research and theoretical understanding. Students learn through experience, seeing theatre and making theatre for themselves. Students are introduced to a wide range of theatrical styles and contexts as they explore plays practically and devise and work on performances. Students choose to develop as a:

- performer
- designer (lighting, sound, set, costume, puppets)
- director
- combination of these.

Whichever option they choose, students will gain many invaluable skills, both theatrical and transferable, to expand their horizons.

Course content

Component 1: Drama and theatre

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
- Study of two set plays, one chosen from List A, one chosen from List B
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

Component 2: Creating original drama

- Process of creating devised drama
- Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer, designer or director)
- Devised piece must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed practitioner

Component 3: Making theatre (practical)

- Practical exploration and interpretation of Extract 1, 2 and 3, each taken from a different play
- Methodology of a prescribed practitioner must be applied to Extract 3
- 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

Component 1

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

Component 2

- Working notebook (40 marks)
- Devised performance (20 marks)
- 60 marks in total
- 30% of A-level

Component 3

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

Future opportunities

Higher education institutions (HEIs) value and respect the skills our drama and theatre qualifications give students. Students of AQA Drama and Theatre develop skills that are not just essential for drama but applicable to a wide range of higher education subjects and in the workplace. Students grow in confidence and maturity as they successfully realise their own ideas. They learn to evaluate objectively and develop a sound appreciation of the influences that cultural and social contexts can have on decision making.



Entry requirements

English Language GCSE at Grade 5 is required.