



A Level

Drama & Theatre Studies

Drama and Theatre Studies focuses on the practical and theoretical mechanics of drama and theatre. The course is examined by the OCR Board. You will have four hours contact time but must also be prepared to give extra time for rehearsals and to include yourself on any Theatre trips. The amount of homework varies depending on which section of the course you are currently studying.

What Entry Requirements Do I Need?

It is useful to have taken Drama at GCSE but not essential. As there is a fair amount of analysis and academic study, it is necessary to have gained a Grade 5 in English Language. However, each application is considered on its own merits.

How Will I Be Assessed?

The A Level course comprises four units:

Unit 1: Practitioners in practice

This unit students will study theatre practitioners and the how their work has influenced theatre. The exploration will be both theoretical and practical. Students will then apply the ideas of one practitioner to a text extract (chosen by the centre) which they will perform in an original style.

This is a non-exam assessment unit. This unit is worth 40% of the A Level.

Unit 2: Exploring Texts for performance

This unit gives students the opportunity to apply the knowledge and understanding gained in unit 1. Students will study practically and then choose to perform an extract of a text by an established playwright chosen by the centre. This will be performed to a visiting examiner.

This unit is worth 20% of the A Level.

Unit 3: Analysing Performance

In this unit students will explore two different texts practically the texts will have the same theme but will represent different social, cultural and historical contexts. Students will also evaluate and analyse a live theatre performance.

This unit ends in a 2 hour 15 minute written paper. This unit is worth 20% of the A Level.

Unit 4: Deconstructing texts for performance

In this unit students will interpret and explore practically a performance text considering how to create, develop and direct a performance for an audience. Students study a full text from a choice of 8 provided by OCR.

The unit ends with a 1 hour 45 minute written paper. This unit is worth 20% of the A Level.

What Will I Learn on This Course?

You will extend your ability to create drama and develop your performance skills. You will be required to write about drama and you will expand your powers of analysis, and develop skills in devising and creating theatre. The course will involve a good deal of acting as well as studying plays and playwrights.

What Kind of Person Studies This Course?

You need to be interested in issues that affect society, communities and different groups of people and enjoy the challenge of communicating your views through the medium of drama. You must be passionate and very interested in Drama and Theatre. You should enjoy to see a variety of plays and performance styles, as the course requires students to see a variety of shows which will have the cost of a ticket.

Where Will an A Level in Drama and Theatre Studies Lead Me?

There are many possibilities! It may be further study in Higher Education in Drama itself or in another subject. For example, some past students have gone on to study Degrees in Politics, Education Studies, Social Work, Music, Leisure and Tourism, Stage Management and Drama and English. The subject complements a whole range of disciplines and is useful in building confidence and creativity, working as part of a team, communication and improving presentation skills in a range of careers.