

A Level Drama and Theatre Studies

What is Drama?

The A Level Drama course focus is on the direction and performance of plays throughout history and the critical analysis of live theatre seen on stage. One of the main appeals of the subject is the emphasis on group activities, so the learning takes place through the shared experience of watching theatre and of making drama as part of a group.

Why study Drama?

A-level Drama and Theatre Studies is for students who enjoy reading and watching plays, and taking part in them, whether performing, directing or designing sets and costumes. This course will help students to develop their knowledge and understanding of a range of practical drama skills including:

- Acting and performing/ Directing/ Costume/set designing/ Technical design
- Understanding of the major theatrical styles
- Performance techniques – interpretation, voice, physicality, stage relationships with others
- Design skills – interpretation, visual and design impacts, set creation, Lighting and sound design, special effects, technology and appropriate equipment.
- Confidence, team-building, communication and other life skills.

What is the structure of the course?

Component 1: Drama and theatre	Component 2: Creating original drama (practical)	Component 3: Making theatre (practical)
What's assessed: Questions:	What's assessed:	What's assessed:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A: one question (from a choice) on one of the set plays from List A (25 marks) • Section B: one two part question on a given extract from one of the set plays from List B (25 marks) • Section C: one question on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production (30 marks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts (Extract 1, 2 and 3) each taken from a different play. Methodology of a prescribed practitioner must be applied to Extract 3. This 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
How it's assessed	How it's assessed	How it's assessed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 3 hours • Open book • 80 marks • 40% of A-level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working notebook (40 marks) • Devised performance (20 marks) • 60 marks in total • 30% of A-level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance of Extract 3 (40 marks) • Reflective report (20 marks) • 60 marks in total • 30% of A-level
This component is marked by AQA.	This component is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.	This component is marked by AQA.

To study this course, what qualifications will I need and in which subjects?

A GCSE in Drama would be advised and a grade 5 or above in GCSE English is required.

What kind of career does this subject/qualification prepare me for?

A-level Drama and Theatre Studies is useful for students considering Higher Education in any arts or humanities subject including English Language and Literature, Journalism, Dance, Music, Art and Design, and Media Studies. Career opportunities for students who study A-level Drama and Theatre Studies include, Arts/theatre administration, arts journalism, director, actor, designer, playwright, stage management, theatre management, theatrical agent, technician, broadcasting, media presenting, education, drama therapy and scriptwriting.