

Drama and Theatre Studies



Drama and Theatre

Exam board : AQA

Specification no. : 7261 (AS) / 7262 (A Level)

This is a two year linear A level course - The AS content forms the first half of the A level content and can be assessed at the end of Year 12 to provide an AS Level qualification if the student is dropping the subject and believes they can get a strong grade. However because of the practical nature of assessment the teacher must know this early in the course.

Course Content:

A practical focus

We want students to have an inspiring experience of A-level Drama and Theatre. This qualification emphasizes 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, 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.

Transferable skills

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. This specification refines students' collaborative skills, their analytical thinking and their approach to research. 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. Whatever the future holds, students of A-level Drama and Theatre emerge with a toolkit of transferable skills preparing them for their next steps

What it entails

A-level Drama and Theatre offers students the opportunity to explore drama as a practical art form, in which ideas and meaning are communicated to an audience through choices of form, style and convention.

Students will:

- create, perform and respond to drama and theatre
- develop the creativity and independence to become effective theatre makers
- explore the relationship between theory and practice in a range of theatrical styles and periods and historical, social and cultural contexts
- learn how relevant research, independent thought and analysis of live theatre production can inform decision making in their practical work and put this understanding into practice
- experience the ways in which theatre makers collaborate to create theatre.

The subject content for A-level Drama and Theatre is divided into three components:

1. **Drama and theatre** Written Exam

Over the 2 years students will study two set texts from different time periods; 'Much Ado About Nothing' William Shakespeare and 'Our Country's Good' Timberlake Wertenbaker, which will be examined through a written paper. Students will be prepared to adopt the perspective of at least two of performer, designer (lighting, sound, set and costume) or director, and will also develop Knowledge and understanding of how the play has been constructed to be performed and to communicate meaning, how the play is informed by its social, cultural and historical context. There will also be a question on a piece of Live Theatre seen by the students.

2. **Creating original drama** Practical Exam and Coursework

Students will learn how to create and develop original devised ideas to communicate meaning as part of the theatre making process. We will be focusing on Site Specific Theatre. Students will draw on and demonstrate a practical understanding of the subject content. They will need to develop their own ideas, research relevant processes and practices of theatre making to inform their own practice, apply what they have learnt from live theatre to their own work in practice, collaborate with other theatre makers, explore devising and rehearsal methods, and refine and amend their work in progress.

Students must also study for this component the work and methodology of **one** influential theatre practitioner chosen from the list of Prescribed practitioners.

3. **Making theatre** Practical Exam and Coursework

Each student will choose to be assessed as one or more of a performer, lighting designer, sound designer, set designer, costume designer, puppet designer or director. Costume designers may choose to include make-up and/or hair and/or masks. Set designers may choose to include design of props.

As with component 2, students will study the work and methodology of one influential theatre practitioner chosen from the list of Prescribed practitioners (this must be a different practitioner to the practitioner used in devising.)

Students will apply an understanding of:

- the connections between theory and practice in a range of periods, theatrical styles, social, historical and cultural contexts
- the ways in which theatre makers collaborate to create theatre.

For assessment, students must:

- explore practically three key extracts each taken from a different play
- perform or create a realised design for one of these key extracts
- evidence the influence of the work and methodology of the practitioner in the performance
- analyse and evaluate their interpretation of all three key extracts studied

Entry requirements:

GCSE Drama is helpful but not required. If studied it should be passed at grade 5 or above. At least a grade 5 in GCSE English (Language or Literature) is required as part of the normal entry requirements.

For further information: Contact Mrs G Whitmarsh, Head of English and Drama

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