

DRAMA

QUALIFICATION: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL



SUBJECT OVERVIEW

It is vital that you are able to work with a range of people and that you are prepared to commit to rehearsal schedules; these often take place during lunchtimes and after hours, and are often organised by members of the class, so self-motivation is important. You should be keen on acting, directing or the more technical side of theatre and wish to develop your skills in some or all of these areas.

People sometimes make the mistake of thinking that Drama & Theatre Studies is all practical, but this is not the case. There is a certain amount of written work involved, a portfolio in the first year and a written examination in the final year. If you enjoy the study of plays and the opportunity to be creative, this is the course for you.

The skills that you learn through this course are transferable to any course that you wish to pursue further. You will learn how to be a team-player, a leader, direct others and improve your confidence in public speaking and performing in front of an audience. The course also taps into your creative skills, how you can create work from ideas and design the aesthetics to go alongside it.

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COURSE CONTENT

Component One: Devising

Coursework: 40% of the qualification 80 marks

- Devise an original performance piece
- Use one key extract from a performance text and a theatre practitioner as stimuli
- Use a famous practitioner as your chosen style
- Written portfolio

Component Two: Text In Performance

Coursework: 20% Of The Qualification 60 Marks

- A group performance/design realisation of one key extract from a performance text
- A monologue or duologue performance/design realisation from one key extract from a different performance text
- The Sixth Form's choice of performance texts and extracts, with student consultation

Component Three: Theatre Makers In Practice

Written examination: 40% of the qualification 80 marks

- Live theatre evaluation – choice of performance
- Practical exploration and study of a complete performance text – focusing on how this can be realised for performance and design
- Practical exploration and interpretation of another complete performance text, in light of a chosen theatre practitioner – focusing on how this text could be reimagined for a contemporary audience.

COURSE SUPPORT AND ENRICHMENT

The course offers opportunities to see live theatre in the West End and local theatres. It will also offer two workshops, one with the practitioners that you are studying for component one and the second with a Theatre company.

Year two students get to run an event just before or after Halloween. In the past two years this has been a live actor Horror Maze and Murder Mystery Performance.

Some extra rehearsals are supervised by the staff to give guidance on the performance and extra sessions for coursework or exam revision are given before the time of submission/entry.

ASSESSMENT

Component One: Devising

There are two parts to the assessment:

- A portfolio (60 marks)
- The devised performance/design realisation (20 marks)

Component Two: Text In Performance

There are two parts to the assessment:

- The group performance/design realisation (32 marks)
- A monologue or duologue performance/design realisation (16 marks)

Component Three - Theatre Makers In Practice: Exam

There are three parts to the exam:

- Section A: Live Theatre Evaluation (16 marks)
- Section B: Page to Stage: Realising a Performance Text (32 marks)
- Section C: Interpreting a Performance Text (24 marks)

