

Drama and Theatre

Awarding Body: AQA

Level: A-Level

Introduction

The Drama and Theatre A-Level is the perfect progression if you loved the subject at GCSE, it provides opportunities to deepen your knowledge and understanding whilst challenging and developing your practical skills in all elements of theatre; acting, directing and designing set, costume, lighting and sound.

This course provides you with an excellent grounding in performance theory and theatre making. You will be provided with opportunities to develop your devising and scripted performance skills while analysing live theatre and exploring two set texts.

Whilst A-Level is rigorously academic, it is essentially practical and offers a unique approach to learning. It is an active and creative course which aims to nurture your enthusiasm for and interest in theatre, both as an audience member and as a participant. Through the study of different play texts, practitioners and the history of theatre, you will gain the theoretical knowledge and practical understanding to take to the stage.

Drama is a highly valued qualification recognised by employers and universities. Candidates with qualifications in Drama are thought to be excellent communicators, versatile & resilient, and confident.

Content included within the two years:

Your study will look at many aspects of Drama that develops further topics learned at GCSE Drama. Your study will include the following:

- Introduction to Practitioners
- Component 1, Section A: A study and exploration of *Hedda Gabler* by Henrik Ibsen
- Component 1, Section B: A study and exploration of *Our Country's Good* by Timberlake Wertenbaker.

- Component 1, Section C: Visits to see Live Production to analyse and evaluate for its success in meeting the production teams dramatic aims and intentions.
- Component 2: Creating Original Drama, with the influence of the work and methodologies of practitioners, students will devise their own piece of original theatre. This is supported with a working notebook.
- Component 3: Making theatre, the theatrical workshopping of two extracts from scripted performances influenced by contrasting practitioners and recorded through a reflective report.

The A-Level will of the following examinations:

- Component 1: a 3 hour exam taken June of Year 13.
- Component 2: a devised performance and working notebook performed around October of Year 13.
- Component 3: a scripted examination and interpretation of three extracts from different plays. The first two extracts are workshopped in Year 12 and examined in Term 4 of Year 13 alongside a reflective report.

What you need

At least a grade 5 in GCSE Drama and grade 5 in GCSE English Language. If Drama was not taken at GCSE, grade 5 in GCSE English Language and successfully passing an audition / interview.

Career and further study

Drama and Theatre A-Level is a respected subject amongst Russell Group Universities. You could progress to higher level study within Drama and Theatre Studies at University level or audition for Drama Schools. However, the A-Level compliments many other career aspects thanks to the skills you will develop and equip yourself with throughout the two years. Drama and Theatre provides an essential foundation for a wide variety of career areas including performing, designing, producing, media, teaching, law, journalism and more. Drama and Theatre supports one of the largest growing businesses, the creative arts industry.

Trips and other costs

You are expected to cover the cost of live theatre trips and purchase your own scripts.