

Exam Board: AQA
Qualification: Drama GCSE
Assessment Information: 1 written examination- 1hr 45mins
2 practical examinations
1 piece of course work, 2500 words

[Link to official specification](#)

Department Information:

The Drama Department is a thriving department that is well regarded in the school and wider community. Drama is taught from Year 7 to Year 13 with a strong up take and consistently excellent GCSE results. The department prides itself in, not only teaching the examination curriculum to an excellent standard, but also inspiring students to engage in a rich range of drama and theatre experiences. The department offers a wide extra-curricular provision and encourages students to engage in the clubs on offer. Students are expected to attend a range of trips to ensure they experience a range of Live Theatre. The department arranges for workshops from practising theatre makers allowing students to engage in current theatre practice.

ACHIEVE in the curriculum:

*The Drama course embodies all the ACHIEVE values through its mixture of learning approaches. Students apply their **versatility** and **collaboration** through their practical work and working as a group. Their **endurance** is tested through their application of a range of styles of theatre to a range of text. Their work is expected to be **ambitious**. A safe and **happy** working environment is created for students to be able to achieve their potential in this subject.*

Curriculum Aims & Intent:

We want students to have an inspiring experience of Drama GCSE. This qualification emphasises practical creativity alongside developing students understanding of dramatic theory. Students learn to collaborate with others, think analytically and evaluate effectively. They gain the confidence to pursue their own ideas, reflect and refine their efforts. Students learn through experience, seeing theatre and making theatre for themselves.

Students choose to develop as a:

- performer
- designer (lighting, sound, set, costume, puppets)
- combination of these.

Whichever option they choose, students will gain many invaluable skills linking to a wide range of careers. The hope is that students will engage with Drama at A Level.

Resources:

BBC Bitesize <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zrnjwty>

Blood Brothers play guide- [https://www.illuminatepublishing.com/wp-content/uploads/samples/Blood Brothers Play Guide for AQA GCSE Drama/22/GCSE study guide- https://www.illuminatepublishing.com/product/aqa-gcse-drama-student-book-revised-edition](https://www.illuminatepublishing.com/wp-content/uploads/samples/Blood_Brothers_Play_Guide_for_AQA_GCSE_Drama/22/GCSE_study_guide-https://www.illuminatepublishing.com/product/aqa-gcse-drama-student-book-revised-edition)

Design guide- <https://www.aqabookshop.co.uk/product/aqa-gcse-drama-designing-drama-lighting-sound-set-costume-puppet-design/>

How we keep parents informed:

Year 11 - Progress reports are published 4 times per year, in October, December, February and March, with a face-to-face parents' evening in October.

How parents can help their child:

Attend as much live theatre as possible

Testing students on key terminology and the meaning for both performance and design

Support your child in learning lines
 Allow and encourage your child to attend extra rehearsals and Monday intervention
 Encourage your child to attend extra-curricular drama provision either in school or out of school.
 If possible, sign up your child to LAMDA lesson.
 Discuss and talk through the set text and scripted plays to support your child to gain a clear understanding of the plays

What we study and when:					
Term	Unit, Topic Or Summary Of Work Covered	Knowledge, Understanding & Skills Developed	ACHIEVE / Personal Development Focus	How The Work Is Assessed	Careers Links
1 and 2	<p>NEA written work</p> <p>Component 1: Section A Section B Section C</p> <p>Component 3- Scripted examination</p>	<p>The first 3 weeks of term are spent finalising, refining and improving students NEA work. Students develop their skills in analysis and evaluation. They are expected to detail key examples within the devising process they completed in Year 10. This coursework amounts to 30% of their grade.</p> <p>Students will consolidate their understanding of the set text, Blood Brothers and the live theatre section of the written examination. Students will revise the work completed in term 1-4 of Year 10. Students will not only develop their understanding of the play but also how they structure an answer, decode questions and analyse a text under timed conditions.</p> <p>Towards the end of term 2 students will embark on their final component, the scripted examination. Students will be given a play by the teacher which suits their style. Students will develop their understanding of the play, the characters and the</p>	<p>Students will develop their endurance as they critique and improve their work.</p> <p>Students will work with integrity as they hone their skills for the written examination.</p> <p>Students will collaborate in their groups for the scripted piece.</p>	<p>Final marks of NEA work 40% of GCSE</p> <p>PPEs</p>	<p>Contemporary theatre companies</p> <p>Playwriters</p> <p>Dramaturg</p> <p>Theatre education</p> <p>Box office and theatre managers.</p> <p>Designers- lighting, sound, set and costume.</p>

		context in order to begin staging the extract for performance.			
3 and 4	Component 3- Scripted examination	<p>Students will continue to work on their first scripted extract from the chosen play. They will perform a mock performance of extract 1 and then response to the feedback given in order to improve the piece.</p> <p>Students will then move onto the second extract from the same play. Students will work practically to block the pieces, develop character, enhance their vocal and physical skills to create dynamic and skilful performances .</p> <p>Both extract will be performed to an external examiner at the end of term 4.</p>	Teachers will push students to be ambitious in their practical choices and test their endurance when tacking texts. Students will strive for excellence in their work through the high standards set.	Mock performances of scripted pieces	Final scripted examination- 20% of GCSE
5	Component 1 Section A Section B Section C	The focus this term is on revision for the written examination. Students will revise all sections of the written paper developing the complexity of the terminology used, ensuring their structures are sound and they have a solid understanding of the meaning of the text and how that meaning can be communicated in performance. For live theatre they will consolidate their descriptions, analysis and evaluation of the performance, ensuring they have an excellent grasp on decoding questions.		Written examination	40% of GCSE