

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

Qualification Level	A Level
Exam Board/ Specification	Edexcel/Pearson
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Why study this course?

Drama and Theatre Studies is a practical, intellectual and artistic subject. Drama and Theatre studies aims to develop your understanding of the theory and practice of Drama and consider the social, cultural and historical contexts from which the plays derive. You will be expected to explore the structural elements of theatre from the page to the stage. Through the course you will study a wide range of plays, you will gain a detailed knowledge and understanding of the ways in which playwrights use the dramatic form, structure and language to communicate meaning to an audience.

You must be able to analyse and critically deconstruct the work you study, create and witness. Drama A level is an excellent mix of both practical and theory work and a subject that is both captivating and exciting to take. Whether you want to work on the stage, TV or presenting, behind the scenes on stage or TV or are looking to become a teacher, Drama and Theatre studies will give you an understanding in all areas of the Arts and more. Drama and Theatre studies is also highly beneficially to other careers for its many transferable skills that you need to become a lawyer, solicitor, work in the police force, management positions, journalism and many more.

Course content

Drama and Theatre Studies is a creative and exciting course that is a majority practical subject that offers students the opportunity to work individually and as part of small and large groups. The course is focused on practical dramatic skills and will enable students to work collaboratively to create devised and scripted performances from a text. Students will focus on theatrical practitioners as part of the course and they will be encouraged to discover the work of practitioners through practical experiences. They will develop an ability to analyse study texts and unseen texts as an actor and a director.

Drama and Theatre Studies gives students the opportunity to explore the theory behind creating effective theatre and develop skills to enable you to create your own. During the course you will look at work in a variety of styles from the point of view of Director, Designer and Performer. Drama and Theatre Studies will develop skills that can be transferred to other subjects and enrich candidates' cultural development, involvement in and enjoyment of drama and theatre throughout their lives. It is also important to us that students get the opportunity as part of the course to see a vast range of different plays; students can expect to go on local trips. In the past we have visited theatres in London, Warwickshire, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire.

There are 3 Components to A-Level Drama.

- Component 1 is an internally marked piece of work based on devising a group piece and calling on knowledge and skills from a studied practitioner. In this component students will develop their creative and exploratory skills to devise an original performance. The starting point for this devising process will be an extract from a performance text and an influential theatre practitioner. In their creative explorations, students will learn how text can be manipulated to communicate meaning to audiences and they will begin the process of interpretation. They will gain an understanding of how a new performance could be developed through the practical exploration of the theatrical style and use of conventions of the chosen practitioner.
- Component 2 is marked by an external visiting examiner and takes the form of a performance from a script. There will be group and solo performances. Students will develop and demonstrate theatre-making skills, appropriate to their role as a performer or designer. They will explore how they realise artistic intentions in performance. The knowledge and understanding acquired through the study of one key extract from a performance text in Component 1 can be applied to assist in the interpretation, development and realisation of key extracts from performance texts.
- Component 3 is the written exam at the end of year 13 and calls upon all the knowledge developed over the course, looking at 2 separate texts and talking about a trip to the theatre. There are three areas to be covered in the exam. 1) A live theatre evaluation. 2) Page to stage: realisation of a complete performance text. 3) Interpreting one complete performance text, in light of one practitioner for a contemporary audience.

Higher education/ career links

There are a large number of Drama courses available at universities which stand alone or can be linked with Law, History, Film Studies/Media, English, Languages, Business Studies, Marketing and many more. Drama and Theatre Studies has a diverse range of transferable skills which not only universities but also apprenticeships and business highly regard, such skills include; communication, team work, analytical and linguistic skills, confidence, time management and many more, and a passion for learning. There are also many jobs available in the Arts industry such as: Actors, Actor, Arts administrator, Community arts worker, Digital marketer, Drama therapist, Entertainer, Events manager, Image consultant, Lighting technician, Live sound engineer, Media researcher, Pop musician, Screenwriter, Set designer, Singing teacher, Social media manager, Tour manager, TV or film camera operator, TV or film producer, TV or film sound technician, TV presenter, Vlogger, director and more

Whether you prefer performing or being back stage drama can develop your confidence, communication and teamwork skills and if you are involved in planning or organising a performance then these skills can be useful in many jobs.