



DRAMA AND THEATRE

Entry Requirement: Grade 6+ if GCSE Drama has been studied, otherwise a similar grade in an English examination. The subjective nature of the practical examination at GCSE can lead to individual disappointing grades being given consideration.

Examination Board: AQA

Course Content and Assessment

COMPONENT 1: Drama and Theatre 40% - 3hr Paper

Written exam

Study and practically explore two set plays.

Questions are based on the perspective of either a Performer, Designer or Director for both sections.

One question based around a live Theatre performance.

COMPONENT 2: Creating Original Drama – PRACTICAL/NOTEBOOK 30%

(Students choose 1 aspect - Performer, lighting designer, sound designer, set designer, costume designer, puppet designer, director – Costume designers may choose to include make-up and/or hair and/or masks – Set designers may choose to include design of props).

Students must study the work and methodology of ONE influential theatre practitioner from the prescribed list. (This practitioner must be different to the one used for text based exploration)

Working notebook/Devised performance.

Students devise a piece, marked by us and moderated by AQA

COMPONENT 3: Making Theatre – PRACTICAL/REPORT 30%

(Students may choose 1, 2 or 3 specialisms) - Performer, lighting designer, sound designer, set designer, costume designer, puppet designer, director – Costume designers may choose to include make-up and/or hair and/or masks – Set designers may choose to include design of props).

Students must learn how to contribute to text-based drama in a live theatre context for an audience.

Students perform three extracts, one of which is used as a practical exam. Marked by AQA

Teaching and Learning Methods

The course is essentially a practical one and most lessons involve some type of performing, or related activity. The written elements are based upon practise and candidates are encouraged to employ their own powers of interpretation and expression.

We use discussion, experimentation and comparison to interpret and present information and opinion in differing ways in order to evoke an identified response from the viewer or listener.

Communication is at the heart of the course and students are taught how to use all the tools of engaging and keeping an audience's attention through voice, expression, gesture and body language. All these skills are transferable into daily life where they can enhance social health and confidence.

It is a physical rather than sedentary course and students are encouraged to wear appropriate clothes.

Homework

- Preparing the working notebook/report
- Practise examination answers
- Preparing for timed essays
- Rehearsals for practical examination presentations

Materials

2 set texts

Trips and Visits

A love of theatre is encouraged through trips to see pieces of a variety of genres. Students are shown how their critical appreciation can be enhanced by approaching what they encounter with an open mind and making judgements after the experience.

We also have visiting groups and backstage tours.

Key Features

- Mainly practical
- Working cooperatively in groups
- Experimentation and exploring
- Developing communication skills
- Experiencing differing types of theatre

Those who have studied this A Level have gone on to study a wide range of subjects in Higher Education. Some have gone on to work in the theatre, whilst others have used the communication skills they have developed in a wide range of careers, from law to human resources and even teaching.