

Subject Drama and Theatre Studies

Exam Board AQA

Entry requirement: No previous study of the subject is required, although a genuine love of the theatre and a willingness to perform are absolutely essential.

Course content

At A-Level, students will study performance texts and work on producing their own devised drama. The course is aimed to inspire students to learn through their own experiences through a study of a wide range of styles, practitioners and live theatre.

Component 1: Drama and Theatre (written exam)

The component assesses the knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre, interpretative and analytical skills. This is done through the study of two set texts as well as analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers.

80 marks in total, 40% of final mark

Written paper 3 hours Open book

Component 2: Creating Original Drama (practical)

This is a practical component that is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

- Devised performance using the ideas and methodologies of a prescribed practitioner - students may contribute as performer, designer or director (20 marks)
- Working notebook covering Rationale and Research and Development and Refinement (40 marks)

60 marks in total, 30% of final mark

Component 3: Making Theatre (practical)

This is a practical component marked by AQA that assesses the following:

- Practical exploration, workshop and interpretation of three key extracts, each from a different play producing an individual Reflective Report analysing and evaluating the theatrical interpretation of all three extracts studied (20 marks)
- Methodology of a practitioner must be applied to Extract 3 which is to be formally performed to an audience – students may contribute as performer, designer or director (40 marks)

60 marks in total, 30% of final mark

The Theatre Studies specifications are designed to encourage students to gain confidence in performance, active learning, improvisation and problem solving as part of a team. It allows the students to gain an insight into the world of theatre through practical and written mediums.

The course is taught through a series of lectures as well as practical workshops and approaches, working both individually and in groups.

Past students have entered courses of study in Performing Arts, Teaching, Law, Journalism, the Leisure Industry, Politics and Psychology.

A Theatre Studies qualification is widely accepted by Universities, Colleges and Performing Arts Institutions.