



DRAMA & THEATRE

Entry Requirements: Level 5 in English Language & a keen interest in Drama

Exam board: Pearson, Edexcel

Full Subject Specification website: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/drama-and-theatre-2016.html>

Why study Drama and Theatre:

The A Level in Drama and Theatre will give you the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of how theatre works. You will have opportunities to be a performer, theatre maker and a critical audience member. You will be required to work practically with your peers, but will also need to spend time working independently researching material and putting your knowledge and understanding on paper. As Drama students you must be prepared to put in your own time; watching theatre productions, carrying out research, learning lines and rehearsing for performances.

This course provides opportunities to develop your creativity, really sharpen performance skills and give a good grounding in the technical aspects of drama and theatre work. We'll expose you to the professional world of Theatre and will see you grow in confidence, imagination and allow you to demonstrate how collaborative working creates great outcomes for you, your colleagues and the wider audience.

Subject Specification Outline & Exam Format:

Component 1-Devising: 40% of the A Level and Internally Assessed

Using a starting stimulus of the script 'Our Country's Good by Timberlake Wertenbaker' you will devise an original performance piece and write a detailed portfolio coursework (2500-3000 words) that will evidence your devising journey, through collaborative development, research and evaluative skills.

Component 2-Text In Performance: 20% of the A level and Externally Assessed

You will be assessed by a visiting examiner performing two practical extracts. The first performance will be with a group piece, which is worth 36 marks, and the second performance will be a monologue or a duologue, which is worth 24 marks.

Component 3-Theatre Makers in Practice
40% of the A level and Externally Assessed

This two and a half hour written paper will examine your understanding of theatre; this will be based on the texts studied and a live performance you will need to watch and review. The exam is split into three sections:

Section A: Live Theatre Evaluation. You will have to analyse and evaluate a live performance that you have seen and respond to a statement about it. For example: 'Live performance has nothing to say to a young audience.' Like the GCSE, you can take 500 words into the exam with you.

Section B: Page to Stage-Realising a Performance Text. Students will answer two extended questions. One writing as a 'performer' and the other writing as a 'designer.' Both on the play 'Machinal by Sophie Treadwell'

Section C: Interpreting a Performance Text. You will answer one extended question on the play 'Antigone by Sophocles' writing as a director about your 'Bertolt Brecht' inspired production concept.

Progress Assessment:

Component 1-Portfolio (coursework) worth 60 marks and practical devised piece worth 20 marks-40% of the total A Level

Component 2-60 marks for Practical performance-20% of the total A level

Component 3-80 marks in total for the written exam-40% of the total A level.

Note: For the performances in component one and two, you can participate in a designer capacity creating the lighting, set, costume or sound design for the piece. You do not have to be a performer for the pieces.

Self Study Requirements:

Students will be required to make use of available studio space and rehearse their performance pieces outside of lesson times, this will include after school slots.

Students will be expected to be proactive and independently watch and examine set works, bringing ideas and opinions to lessons.

Progression Pathways:

Drama and Theatre Studies naturally leads to a variety of courses at all the major universities across the UK where you can select routes with an academic, technical or a performance focus. As a subject it provides a good complement to the Social Sciences, English, Arts, Humanities and the Law and along the way you will develop many transferable skills, including, planning and organisation, team work, communication and critical analysis. Jobs are equally diverse. However, you'll definitely leave with that dash of confidence, spark and self-belief which can give students an advantage in many situations and challenges.