

# Drama & Theatre Studies A Level

Board: AQA, Specification 7262

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## Why Choose Drama & Theatre?

This course will inspire you to become an independent theatre maker with the skills needed to go on to higher education, whether that is to study a course in drama and theatre or another subject.

This qualification emphasises practical creativity alongside research and theoretical understanding. You will learn through experience, seeing theatre and making theatre for yourself. You will be introduced to a wide range of theatrical styles and contexts as we explore plays practically, devise and work on performances.

You may choose to develop as a performer, designer (lighting, sound, set, costume, puppets), director or a combination of these. Whichever option you choose, you will gain many invaluable skills, both theatrical and transferable, to expand your horizons.

Each of the written exam papers is designed to allow you to demonstrate creativity and imagination in interpreting set texts and independent thinking while evaluating live theatre production.

## Course content and assessment

This qualification is linear – this means you will undertake all non-exam assessment (NEA) in the certification year and sit the written exam at the end of the course.

### The subject content divided into:

- Drama and theatre (40%) – written exam
- Creating original drama (30%) – practical
- Making theatre (30%) – practical

In the practical components you may specialise in performing, lighting, sound, set, costume, puppets and/or directing.

### Component 1: Drama & theatre – 40%

#### What's assessed:

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
- Study of two set plays from different published lists (A and B)

- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers.

#### How it's assessed:

- Written exam: 3 hours
- Open book
- 80 marks in total.

#### Questions:

- Section A: one question (Hedda Gabler) on one of the set plays from List A (25 marks)
- Section B: one three-part question on a given extract from one of the set plays from List B (Our Country's Good) (25 marks)
- Section C: one question on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production (30 marks).

### Component 2: Creating original drama (practical) – 30%

#### What's assessed:

- The process of creating devised drama
- Performance of devised drama with you as performer, designer or director
- A devised piece, one that must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed practitioner.

#### How it's assessed:

- Working notebook (40 marks)
- Devised performance (20 marks)
- 60 marks in total.

This component will be marked by your teachers and moderated by AQA.

### Component 3: Making theatre (practical) – 30%

#### What's assessed:

- Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts (Extract 1, 2 and 3), each taken from a different play. Methodology of a prescribed practitioner must be applied to Extract 3.
- Extract 3 is to be performed as a final assessed piece (you may contribute as a performer, designer or director)
- An individual reflective report in which you analyse and evaluate your theatrical

interpretation of all three key extracts studied.

#### How it's assessed:

- Performance of Extract 3 (40 marks)
- Reflective report (20 marks)
- 60 marks in total
- This component is marked by AQA.

### Where next?

Drama skills are invaluable and offer progression into many career pathways including: theatre-performance; arts management; press; publicity; media; film; teaching – and many more. Drama will provide you with the ability to: present yourself positively; communicate clearly and with confidence; and develop life skills that will help you succeed in both your personal and professional lives.

Drama will equip you to: communicate an idea to an audience; think creatively; plan well; meet deadlines; gain vital leadership skills. Drama helps us to understand people and the world around us, and to empathise and develop strategies for dealing with all kinds of scenarios.

The course offers both academic and performance based credentials, providing a platform for entry into higher education in a wide variety of course options. The course also develops skills for those wishing to pursue study on specialist performance based courses. Drama and Theatre Studies skills give students a sound background and competitive edge in the world of education and employment.