

DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES AS & A2 Level



Director of Drama & Theatre Studies: Mr C Testa
Teacher: Mr C Testa, Miss D Jones, Mrs P Baxter
Examination Board: Edexcel

Course Outline

The AS GCE in Drama & Theatre Studies aims to bridge the gap between GCSE and full A Level GCE by providing an opportunity to study plays from the point of view of a director, designer, performer and critic. The qualification is designed to enable students to acquire a knowledge and understanding of the language of drama and theatre as well as develop their performing and analytical skills.

Entry Requirements

An active interest and an appreciation of the theatre is vital to the success of students on the course. Students must have the skills and ability to work independently, in pairs and as part of an ensemble producing presentations and externally examined performances.

You must show a willingness to carry out wider reading and research tasks beyond what is taught in the lessons to expand knowledge and understanding in studio based discussions and written work.

You must be fully committed to rehearsals in and out of school time.

What Will I Study?

The AS course focuses on the study of two texts and a response to a live theatre production. Students will also perform a monologue or duologue as well as a group directed performance to an external examiner.

Module 1: 40% of AS marks

This unit introduces you to the content of plays written for the theatre. You will learn how to analyse plays in a variety

of ways so that you become familiar with the ways written plays can be interpreted for realisation in performance.

Module 2: 60% of AS marks

This unit offers you the chance to demonstrate skills in a performance environment. The knowledge and understanding gained during the study of two plays in Unit 1 will now be applied in a performance to an audience.

The A2 modules build on the experience, knowledge and understanding you have developed in the AS Level modules.

Module 3: 40% of A2 marks

This unit requires the creation of a unique and original piece of theatre. The knowledge and understanding gained in the AS units will now be applied to create a production.

You will be assessed on both the process of creation and the finished product in the form of a performance to an invited audience.

Module 4: 60% of A2 marks

This externally examined written unit requires the detailed study of one set play text and one prescribed historical period of theatrical development.

You will work mainly through practical sessions and discussion, using improvisation to explore issues, characters and texts. Acting and design skills will be developed through performance. Written assignments will be set as homework. We have strong links with local theatres and during the course, actors and directors and touring companies will work with you.

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How Will I Be Assessed?

AS

Unit 1 (60 Marks)

A set of 'Exploration Notes' based on individual research and response to the practical work to a maximum of 3000 words must be submitted for each text.

Students must also experience live theatre and submit an evaluation to a maximum of 1000 words.

All elements of this unit are internally assessed and externally moderated.

Unit 2 (80 Marks)

This unit contains two elements. It requires students to take part in a performance of a professionally published play by a known writer. Additionally, students must offer for examination either a monologue or duologue.

This unit will be assessed under examination conditions by a visiting examiner.

A2

Unit 3 (60 marks)

This unit requires students to create an original and unique piece of theatre. The starting point for the work is stimulus set by the department. Students will be assessed on the research and development of their work as well as the final performance in front of an identified audience.

Students are also required to complete an evaluation on both the process and performance of their work.

Unit 4 (80 Marks)

This unit takes the form of a two-and-a-half hour written paper. There are three sections to the paper.

Section A and B relate to one play studied in class and explored from the point of view of a director. It is expected that the students will explore the play in both an academic and practical way.

Section C looks at theatre history and requires students to research a chosen play from its original writing through to modern day performance. The research covers the 16-21st Century versions of the play.

This unit is externally set and assessed.

Career Opportunities And Progression

You can go on to study a range of subjects at degree level: Arts; Humanities; Social Sciences and is no longer seen as a subject simply for those wishing to pursue careers in acting or theatre.

The skills developed in the course are seen as desirable in Management, Personnel, Law and Teaching professions, as well as many more.

The Drama and Theatre course complements other A Level subjects such as Media Studies, English, History, Art and Music.