



GCE Drama and Theatre Studies

Edexcel

Summary of course content AS Level

Unit 1: Exploration of Drama and Theatre

Students will study two contrasting plays from a practical and analytical basis. Whilst studying these plays students will apply the theory and practice of the theatre practitioner Stanislavski and theatre company Frantic Assembly.

Unit 2 Theatre Text in Performance

This unit offers students the chance to demonstrate their acting skills in a performance to an invited audience and external examiner. Each student will rehearse and present either a monologue or a duologue in addition to a performance of a published play by a well known playwright.

A2 Level

Unit 3: Exploration of Dramatic Performance

Students are required to create a unique and original piece of theatre using the skills learnt in year 12. The devised work is performed to an invited audience

Unit 4: Theatre Text in Context

This is the externally assessed written exam and is based on the study of one set text and a historical period of theatrical development. Questions are asked from the point of view of actor, director and producer and requires students to draw on all theatrical knowledge and understanding gained during the course

Summary of Assessment

AS Level			A2 Level		
Unit 1	40% of the total AS marks	20% of the total GCE marks	Unit 3	40% of the total A2 marks	20% of the total GCE marks
Internally assessed based on practical activities in class. Students complete a set of exploration research notes and review a live theatre performance. Practical work is videoed and sent to the exam board			Internally assessed in the research and development of the work as well as the final performance to an audience. Students submit a written evaluation and portfolio of the development process. Performance is videoed and sent to the exam board		
Unit 2	60% of the total AS marks	30% of the total GCE marks	Unit 4	60% of the total A2 marks	30% of the total GCE marks
Externally assessed by a visiting examiner. Students are assessed on their performance skills and submit a concept of interpretation on their chosen roles			Externally assessed written paper. Section A and B are based on a set text studied in class. Section C is a comparison question based in the evolving performance conditions of the theatre		

What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?

It is useful to have taken Drama at GCSE level but not essential. It is important that you are interested in gaining a greater understanding of how theatre and plays work, and that you are keen to be involved with performances.

What will I learn?

The course demands practical, creative and communication skills in almost equal measure. You will extend your ability to create drama and theatre, either in a performing or production role. You will also be required to write about drama and to develop your powers of analysis to become an informed critic. The course will involve taking part in drama productions, as well as studying plays and playwrights.

Is this the right subject for me?

You need to be curious about issues and ideas and have a creative instinct for communicating your views through drama. You may be keen on acting, writing or on the visual and technical side of theatre and wish to develop your skills in some or all of these areas. Equally you will be interested in going to the theatre to see plays performed by different theatre companies.

Michelle Ferris, Head of Drama & Theatre Studies

QUOTES FROM STUDENTS:

Despite a lot more hard work than GCSE, it is a lot more fun.

Tyler Drewe, Year 12

Having not taken Drama at GCSE, I'm finding it easier than expected. However, the coursework can be difficult as it requires a depth of knowledge and vocabulary.

Ashleigh Woodberry, Year 12

It's a great course, I really enjoy it but there is a lot of work involved. You must stay switched on all the time. It's more challenging than GCSE, but you learn a wider range of skills and take on the director's role.

Chris Sims Year 12

After thoroughly enjoying GCSE drama, I was looking forward to beginning the course. I am finding it easy and fun. I look forward to continuing the course to see the challenges ahead.

Lyric Royce, Year 12

Requires a deeper understanding of drama but still as fun as explorative.

Callan Boland, Year 12

It is harder than GCSE however, still manageable and enjoyable.

Kyle Coates, Year 12