

Drama WJEC (EDUQAS)



The Course

The Drama course aims to develop your skills for devising theatre, and performing or technically supporting performances of published scripts. You will study a range of dramatic forms and theatre practitioners to enable you to interpret texts in different ways. You will be taught how to use a variety of dramatic terms and conventions to evaluate your work, the work of your peers and of professional theatre companies. The course is assessed through a mixture of practical and theoretical tasks. You will be expected to perform in a range of styles, watch professional productions and work with theatre companies through workshops.

Component 1: Devising Theatre

Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated, 40% of qualification.

Learners will be assessed on either acting or design. Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre using either the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner or a genre, in response to a stimulus set by WJEC (EDUQAS).

Learners must produce:

- a realisation of their piece of devised theatre
- a portfolio of supporting evidence
- an evaluation of the final performance or design.

Component 2: Performing from a Text

Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner, 20% of qualification.

Learners will be assessed on either acting or design. Learners study two extracts from the same performance text chosen by the centre. Learners participate in one performance using sections of text from both extracts.

Component 3: Interpreting Theatre

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 40% of qualification

Section A: Set Text

A series of questions on one set text from a choice of five:

1. The Tempest, William Shakespeare
2. The Caucasian Chalk Circle, Bertolt Brecht
3. Hard to Swallow, Mark Wheeler
4. War Horse, Michael Morpurgo, adapted by Nick Stafford
5. DNA, Dennis Kelly.

Section B: Live Theatre Review

One question, from a choice of two, requiring analysis and evaluation of a given aspect of a live theatre production seen during the course.

The Benefits

The course naturally leads on to the Edexcel A Level Drama syllabus currently offered by the school and could lead on to any one of a number of A level or BTEC courses. It also develops confidence and communication skills which are invaluable in today's job market. You will develop your understanding of the different roles we all have to play in our everyday lives, become used to adapting to new situations and improve your ability to communicate effectively with people at all levels.

Visits

As part of the GCSE course of study it is essential that students acquire the skills to evaluate pieces of Drama. It is therefore vital that students have the opportunity to see high quality live performances. In general, students should have the opportunity each year to experience professional theatres, either in London or in venues closer to home.

Extra-curricular Groups

It is an essential part of the course that Drama students will participate in at least one of the extra-curricular productions run by the Performing Arts Department. Experience of performing to an audience is crucial to obtaining success in Units 1 and 2.

Requirements

Drama is an extremely popular course and places are limited. You will be asked to attend an interview or a workshop. You do not have to be a particularly gifted writer, director or performer; what is vital is a willingness to take part with an open mind even if you are being asked to do something bizarre! The most successful Drama students are always those who are prepared to enjoy learning and commit themselves to working as a team.

