

A Level Drama & Theatre Studies

Examination Board: Edexcel
Specification Code: 9DR0– A Level

Why Drama and Theatre Studies?

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, 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 independently and with the department.

It is important that you are interested in gaining a greater understanding of how theatre plays and playwrights work, and that you are keen to be involved with performances; you probably enjoy doing speaking and listening in your English lessons. You are probably very imaginative and creative, and may be interested in creative writing or design. You also enjoy reading and studying plays, and have already seen, or would like to go and see, lots of different types of plays. You will have genuine interest in the mechanics of how all elements of theatre work.

Entry Requirements

QEHS standard entry requirements will apply. You will have a 5 grade or above in drama or performing arts at GCSE; or a Merit in an equivalent performing arts qualification. Consideration will be given to other candidates on an audition and interview basis.

Course Content

The course demands practical, creative and communication skills in almost equal measure. You will extend your ability to create drama and theatre, in a performing role and with some options to focus on production roles alongside performing. You will also be required to write about drama in coursework and exam situations, to develop your powers of analysis.

- Component 1
Devising (*Component Code: 9DR0/01)
40% of the qualification
 - Devise an original performance piece.
 - Use one key extract from a performance text and a theatre practitioner as stimuli.
 - Portfolio - 2500–3000 words or combination of written/recorded/verbal evidence.
- Component 2
Text in Performance (*Component Code: 9DR0/02)
20% of the qualification
 - Group performance/design realisation of one key extract from a performance text.
 - Monologue/duologue performance/design realisation from one extract from a different text.
- Component 3
Theatre Makers in Practice (*Paper Code: 9DR0/03)
Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes
40% of the qualification
 - Live theatre evaluation – choice of performance.
 - Practical exploration of a complete text– focusing on realising this for performance.
 - Practical exploration and interpretation of another complete text, in light of a theatre practitioner, focusing on how this text could be reimaged for a contemporary audience.

Prospects

This A Level can lead to further study in drama, theatre studies and performing arts in higher education at degree or HND level. It can be used as part of your course to broaden your studies and may lead on to a career in the performing arts industries. There are also very clear links that can be made between this course and the study of English Literature since you will study and read a number of plays. There are also links to be made with subjects like Politics and History in the contextual factors, issues and ideas that arise from the study of various plays and that are explored using drama. Drama/theatre studies A Level complements a range of subjects and is useful in building confidence and improving presentation skills in a range of careers.

Contacts

Please contact Mr. D. Rigby, Head of Drama, if you wish to discuss this qualification further.