

Drama & Theatre Studies

AS/A2

EXAMINATION BOARD:

Edexcel

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Grade A* - C in Drama or English Literature

The Course

The AS GCE in Drama and Theatre Studies is a practical, intellectual and artistic course, which provides the opportunity to study plays from the point of view of a director, designer, performer and critic. The qualification to study is designed to enable students to acquire a knowledge and understanding of the language of drama and theatre as well as to develop their performing and analytical skills.

The full Advanced GCE in Drama and Theatre Studies aims to extend the knowledge, skills and understanding acquired in the AS units by enabling students to apply what they have learned in their own creative work. In devising theatre students alternative roles between being playwrights, performer/designer and director and apply their knowledge of different theatre forms and structures gained from their AS study to the creation of their own work. In performing theatre students are required to apply their knowledge, skills and understanding within the structure of a director's interpretation of a play and to operate at a highly intellectual level as well as at a highly skilled practical level. The aim of the full advanced GCE is to enable students to operate more autonomously and with confidence within a drama and theatre context.

Summary of scheme of assessment

AS units

Unit 1 Exploration of drama and theatre <i>Exploration of two plays chosen by the centre</i>	15% internally assessed/externally moderated coursework
Unit 2 Text in performance I <i>A practical examination of acting or design skills in a directed production of a play.</i>	20% externally assessed practical
Unit 3 Text in context I <i>Two examination questions. One question based on the context of the play performed in Unit 2 and one question on a play seen in performance.</i>	15% externally assessed 2 hour written paper

A2 units

Unit 4 Devising <i>Teacher assessment of the making and performing of a devised piece of theatre</i>	20% internally assessed/externally moderated coursework
Unit 5 (synoptic) Text in performance II <i>Workshop presentation of a student directed play.</i>	15% externally assessed practical
Unit 6 (synoptic) Text in context II <i>Three examination questions based on the study of two plays. Section A is based on a director's approach to a play and Section B is based on performance analysis and research.</i>	15% externally assessed 2½ hour written paper

Progression routes after A2 level

The course is a superb foundation to higher education courses in Drama, Performing Arts and Media. Beyond which can lead to careers in the Theatre, Film and the Media; in Teaching and Lecturing; in Speech and Dram Therapy; in Journalism, etc., etc.