

Drama and Theatre Studies

(Exam Board: AQA)

Subject Leader: Mr T. Mitchell

A-level Drama and Theatre Studies students create and perform drama and theatre in a variety of contexts, forms and styles. The course is highly practical in approach (while containing significant written assessment).

The course is a mixture of devising and script based study while underpinned by an appreciation of stage craft and knowledge of the work of key Theatre Practitioners and design and production elements. Seeing live performance is an integral part of the course.

What do I need?

- An interest and willingness to explore drama in a variety of practical forms.
- A willingness to engage with academic and written work and apply oneself independently.

The course is divided into 3 Components for A-level and 2 for AS. The course is organised to be 'codeliverable' to AS and A-level students.

AS Outline

- **Component 1: Interpreting Theatre 40%**

This component involves the study of a set text from a choice (currently Ibsen's 'Hedda Gabler') and analysis of a Live Performance seen during the year.

The assessment is a two hour written exam answering questions on the play from a dramatic perspective and on the live performance seen.

- **Component 2: Process and Performance 60%**

This component involves the practical exploration of two extracts from different plays which are studied while applying the methodology of prescribed practitioners. Currently we focus on the work of Steven Berkoff and Frantic Assembly as our chosen practitioners.

Extract 2 is to be polished and performed as a final assessed piece. A portfolio of evidence analysing the process and performance is a core part of the assessment.

A level Outline

- **Component 1 Drama and Theatre 40%**

(See *Interpreting Theatre AS*). For A-level the preparation is similar to AS except that a second text is taught in Y13 (currently Wertebaker's 'Our Country's Good').

The assessment is a three hour written exam answering questions on both plays studied from a dramatic perspective and questions on a different live performance seen in Year 13.

- **Component 2 Creating Original Drama 30%**

A devised performance is produced from a stimulus using the work and methodologies of a prescribed practitioner (different from those used for AS Component 2 or A-level Component 3).

Assessment includes marking the performance as well as a working notebook the students produce alongside the performance.

- **Component 3 - Making Theatre 30%**

(See Process and Performance AS). This Unit is similar to AS Component 2 however for A2 a third extract is produced from a different play so there are three extracts in total. Again the methodology of a practitioner is applied to the performed text (which must be different to that used in Component 2).

Assessment involves the produced performance of the chosen extract and a reflective report the students produce alongside of all 3 studied extracts.

How will I be assessed?

- **Component 1** – Written Exam
- **Component 2 (AS)** – Internally Assessed
- **Component 2 (A)** – Internally Assessed
- **Component 3** – Externally Assessed

Is there anything else I need to know?

- Drama builds an increasingly necessary roster of skills such as creativity, interpersonal, self presentation, communication, initiative and teamworking skills that are crucial in today's market place.
- As well as opening doors to several direct career paths including the UK's successful Creative Arts industries it supports a range of associated careers from personnel and human resources, leadership and management roles, business coaching, marketing and sales, social work and public services, journalism, marketing and PR amongst many others.