



Drama

Examination Board: AQA
Examination Code: 8261

Outline of the Course

You will learn about:

- How to develop performance skills in a range of controlled assessment options.
- How to describe, explain, analyse and evaluate your own performances and those of others.

What will you learn?

Performance skills: You will learn how to develop roles using voice, movement, facial expression, gesture, and interaction. Group work will be the primary mode of study to further develop understanding of writers' intentions, themes and ideas.

For the written examination you will develop understanding of different ways to discuss acting skills and styles. You will also learn to analyse and evaluate specific scenes.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is ongoing throughout the course. This means that every lesson counts in terms of controlled assessment marks. Each controlled assessment performance is marked out of 80.

Process and understanding of skills development (AO2) is worth 15 marks. Final presentation of the performance (AO2) is worth 45 marks. All performances are internally assessed by subject teachers and externally moderated by AQA.

Assessment of written work takes place after each controlled assessment performance in the form of examination questions.

Component 1: Understanding Drama – written examination

This assesses students' knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre. It requires the study of one set

play from a prescribed choice of six and analysis and evaluation of actors/designers in a live performance.

Component 2: Devising Drama

Students can contribute to the work as performance or designers. This component is assessed by teachers then moderated externally by AQA. The final mark for this is out of 80 **with** 60 marks available for the Devising Log, a record of the process. 20 marks are available for the final performance. The total makes up 40% of the final GCSE grade.

Component 3: Texts in Practice

This involves the performance of **2** extracts from one play. The play must contrast with the set play studied for Component 1. Both extracts are performed for an examiner from AQA, each worth 25 marks contributing to a total out of 50 which makes up 20% of the final GCSE grade.

Mark Breakdown

The course is divided into:

Component 1: 40%

Component 2: 40%

Component 3: 20%

Website links

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/gcse>

Key Dates

November / June Year 10 – Performances

March Year 10 – Examination (written)

October/March Year 11 – Performance examination - 20%

May Year 11 – Final Examination (written)

Further Information

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What can I do after I have completed the course?

The content of this GCSE enables a smooth transition to A Level specifications in Drama and Theatre Studies. Drama GCSE would also be useful for those wishing to pursue a Performing Arts course along with other relevant GCSEs. In more general terms, Drama is now valued by universities and employers alike in terms of its collaborative nature as it requires students to work with others as part of a team in an empathetic, problem solving way.