



Drama

Examination Board: AQA

Examination Code: 8261

Outline of the Course

Year 10 (Topics studied)

Component 1: Understanding Drama (Written Paper)

1. Theatre roles and terminology
2. Study through performance of a Set Play
3. Analysis and evaluation of performance skills in a Live Theatre Production

Component 2: Devising (Non-Exam Assessment)

Devise group performance through group discussion, workshops and rehearsals.

Year 11 (Topics studied)

Component 2:

Final performance / Devising Log

Write up the process of devising this performance from your initial ideas in response to stimuli, then the development of these through collaboration with others to the final analysis and evaluation of the piece.

Component 3:

Texts in practice

Performance of 2 extracts

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 how to analyse and evaluate stand out scenes using subject specific terminology.

How will I be assessed?

Performance assessment is ongoing throughout the course. This means that every rehearsal lesson counts as well as the final performance. The non exam assessment performance (Component 2 Devising) is accompanied by a Devising Log to form a total mark out of 80.

Process and understanding of skills development (AO2) is worth 60 marks. Final presentation of the performance (AO2) is worth 20 marks. All performances are internally assessed by subject teachers and externally moderated by AQA.

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 set by AQA and analysis and evaluation of the skills demonstrated by either actors or designers in a live performance.

Component 2: Devising Drama

Students can contribute to the work as performers 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 20 marks contributing to a total out of 40 which makes up 20% of the final GCSE grade.

Mark Breakdown

The course is divided into:
Component 1: Understanding Drama 40%
Component 2: Devising 40%
Component 3: Texts in Practice 20%

Website links

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/gcse/drama-8261/specification>

Key Dates

March Year 10 – Performance
November / April Year 10 - Written assessments
October / March Year 11 – Performances
May Year 11 – Final Written Examination

**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. It is accepted for entry to sixth form for a range of subjects and is valued by universities and employers alike due to its collaborative nature in which students work as part of a team. Drama encourages interpersonal skills which help students to work in an empathetic, problem solving way to achieve shared goals. These skills are vital to success in careers such as law, medicine, publishing, performing arts and education