



AS/A Level Drama and Theatre Studies Course Outline

Overview

This course will enable students who are passionate and excited about theatre to develop their own experiences of the art form. The students will be led and encouraged to explore and develop their own abilities as performers as well as developing a critical appreciation of the subject. Through teacher led workshops, collaborative work and research tasks they will develop their knowledge and understanding of the main influences in theatre, consider theatre from the point of view of participants and audience, integrate theory and practice and develop their drama skills creatively and imaginatively. The students will have access to the highest standard of resources, being taught in the theatre in the sixth form building. Trips to see live theatre will be organised which will aim to expose them to a wide variety of theatre genres. Although the nature of work in theatre is collaborative the students will also be required to cultivate an independent study style. It is essential that students grasp that the step from GCSE to A level in this subject is significant yet surmountable.

Course Structure & Content

AS:

Unit 1 Exploration of Drama and Theatre

This is an internally assessed unit and is worth 40% of the AS level mark. Students explore two contrasting texts practically and complete a set of Exploration Notes. They will also experience a live theatre performance and write an evaluation of it.

Unit 2 Theatre Text in Performance

This is an externally assessed unit worth 60% of the AS level mark. In Section A students either perform a monologue or duologue or offer a design skill in support of performer(s). In Section B are directed in the a group performance by their teacher. They can contribute either as a performer or designer.

A2:

Unit 3 Exploration of Dramatic Performance

This is an internally assessed unit worth 40% of the total A2 marks. Students create an original piece of drama as performer, designer and/or director. They document, reflect and evaluate the process and evaluate the final performance in their Supporting Written Evidence.

Unit 4 Theatre Text in Context

This is an externally assessed unit worth 60% of the total A2 marks. In Section A and B students study one play from a choice of three and develop ideas for a proposed performance production from the perspective of a director. In Section C students study the original performance conditions of a play written and performed in one of three specific time periods; students see and respond to a live performance of the chosen play.

Assessment:

Units 1 and 3 are centre assessed and moderated by the examination board whilst Unit 2 and 4 are externally assessed. Students are expected to demonstrate a response to all of the assessment objectives. Assessment Objectives for AS & A2 are the same.

Assessment Objectives (Edexcel):

Having followed the course students should be able to:

AO1

Demonstrate the application of performance and/or production skills through the realisation of drama and theatre

AO2

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of practical and theoretical aspects of drama and theatre using appropriate terminology

AO3 Interpret plays from different periods and genres

AO4 Make critical and evaluative judgements of live theatre

Entry qualifications

A grade B in GCSE Drama is normally required.

Career Prospects

Applicable for students interested in careers directly or indirectly related to Drama and Theatre Studies. Employers look favourably on applicants who have followed a performance based course as they see them as equipping a young person with essential skills required in the work place. Other opportunities include arts administration, arts education and some areas of the media. Students can progress to higher education courses.