



Drama & Theatre (Pearson/Edexcel)

A Level Drama and Theatre – Pearson/Edexcel

Do you have an interest in how plays are brought to life in performance? Do you enjoy performing, designing and watching theatre? Theatre has been a part of human life for thousands of years. In following this course you will gain a deeper understanding of how theatre works. You will have the opportunities to be a performer, designer and an active audience member. This course allows you to develop both acting and design skills - you do not have to act in a play for assessment.

Course Overview

Component 1: Devising 40%. Internally assessed externally moderated

Creating a devised performance, including:

- exploring an extract from a text in light of a practitioner
- using this exploration to create ideas for a devised piece
- working collaboratively to develop these ideas
- analysing and evaluating the development process and their contribution to it
- analysing and evaluating their performance
- recording their process in a portfolio.

Component 2: Text in Performance 20%. Assessed by Visiting Examiner

Taking part in two extract performance from two different texts, one a monologue or duologue and the other a group piece (free choice of texts), including:

- developing performance and/or design skills
- understanding the context of the extracts within the text
- articulating their intention for the character they are performing or the design they have created
- communicating their intention in performance.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice 40%. Written exam 2 hours 30 minutes

Practical exploration of a set text, including:

- understanding of style, genre, structure, form
- interpretation of characters
- consideration of staging, including lighting, set and sound
- consideration of costume and make up
- understanding of social, historical and cultural context
- how meaning is communicated to an audience.

Re-imagining of a set text for a contemporary audience in light of a practitioner, including:

- exploring the work of a practitioner and considering how that would affect their re-imagined production
- interpretation of characters and understanding of style, genre, structure and form
- consideration of staging, including lighting, set and sound and costume
- understanding of social, historical and cultural context
- how meaning is communicated to an audience.

Analysing and evaluating a piece of live theatre, including: watching a piece of live theatre and producing notes to document their response to it.

The Future: Many universities offer courses linked to this A level. Theatre Studies is the most obvious, but the wide-reaching benefits of the subject make it a highly desirable A level for many other courses. Pathways include; working in the performance industry, in media, such as radio, television, journalism, or any communications based courses.



Independent Learning

Independent learning tasks in Drama & Theatre Studies

<p>1. After each practical session, think about, and research how each Practitioner would approach the text, extract. Why not explore some less well known /Contemporary practitioners; Katie Mitchel, Punchdrunk and Kneehigh.</p>	
<p>2. Look at the Stage online, the Guardian, Independent, Telegraph, Times etc print off and annotate the views of the reviewer and comment on what aspects of the performance they mention.</p>	
<p>3. After each lesson record, analyse, evaluate the work you have done. Review each lesson's notes, research further, find key chapters, information, then add to the class notes you have made with relevant/interesting additional material.</p>	
<p>4. Log onto the Royal Exchange website, www.royalexchangetheatre.org.uk Also try the National Theatre, www.nationaltheatre.org.uk these both have fabulous teacher/student ideas. The RSC has footage, discussions etc.....</p>	
<p>5. Look at Theatre Companies websites, <i>Frantic, Complicite, Splendid Productions, Punchdrunk, Kneehigh</i>. Add a list of ideas and processes to your notes.</p>	
<p>6. Social, Historical, Political and Cultural context: When studying a play script, research the context i.e. what was the social, political, historical climate when the play was written. Ask When? Why? What?</p>	