

Drama & Theatre Studies (AQA)

ABOUT THE COURSE

The Advanced Level Drama and Theatre Studies course should appeal to anyone who has a strong practical interest in Drama and the Performing Arts, whether on stage or behind the scenes.

WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

Drama and Theatre Studies involves working closely with other students, and developing a discerning eye for theatrical technique. As well as a written paper for AS and for A2, there is a large amount of practical work which counts for 40% of the total marks for each of the AS and A Level examinations.

For AS, each student will contribute to the performance of a short play text. For the A Level a Devised Piece, students work in groups of 4-8 to "realise an original drama production created by themselves". This includes all aspects of theatrical production: script, lighting, set design, make-up, costume, direction, etc.

For both AS and A Level practical performances, candidates may choose to be examined in acting or a technical aspect. Candidates who wish to take the technical option must have previous experience of programming lights or sound desks.

WHERE COULD IT TAKE ME?

Candidates wishing to pursue the ACTING option should have successful experience in acting. Students produce a portfolio for both AS and A2, recording the processes involved, and this, in conjunction with teacher assessment and the performance in front of a visiting examiner, forms the basis for the practical mark.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

The written paper for AS requires a study of a set play and the study of a play in performance. The written paper for A2 requires a study of two set plays. The prescribed plays are set for their dramatic rather than necessarily their literary quality, and are studied from the perspective of performance.

Why Choose A-Level Drama?

The prime strengths of Drama and Theatre Studies at Advanced Level are that it develops confidence and communication skills and, as such, it can be recommended for many occupations that will require these skills - for example, marketing, business and law.

It is also helpful, though not essential, for anyone who hopes to work in the theatre, or in the related fields of the media, films and journalism.

