

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

AT ADVANCED LEVEL (A/S AND A2)

Our Course: **AQA, Specification**

Summary of Subject Content

The specification consists of four teaching and learning units, two at each of Advanced Subsidiary and A2 levels. It provides opportunities for candidates to explore and increase their understanding of a wide range of issues, through the study of plays, theatre practitioners and live productions seen. The analysis and appreciation of the subject matter of plays and productions similarly encourage understanding of moral and ethical issues. In the practical units, the process of creating a group presentation promotes negotiation skills, and encourages recognition and sympathetic awareness of others' values and beliefs.

At Advanced Subsidiary candidates will gain a knowledge and understanding of theatre practice through their own engagement with the medium as both participant and informed audience member. Candidates will develop performance skills appropriate to the creation and realization of drama and theatre.

At A2, the specification provides candidates with the opportunity to develop skills and extend and apply knowledge gained at AS. Candidates will demonstrate a more advanced level of performance alongside the ability to think independently, to make judgements and to refine their work in the light of research. They will also demonstrate the ability to analyse the ways in which different performance and production elements are brought together to create theatre.

First Year

AS: Unit 1: Live Theatre Production Seen and Prescribed Play

Written Paper: 1 hour 30 minutes (60% of total AS marks / 30% of total A Level marks) - 100 marks

Section A: response to live theatre seen during the course

Section B: study of the set play - focused upon the interpretation of the play from a performance perspective.

Unit 2: Presentation of an Extract from a Play

Coursework: (40% of total AS marks, 20% of total A Level marks)

Group performance of an extract from a published play. Assessment includes preparatory and development work. This unit is marked by the centre and moderated by AQA. Students will also study the work of an influential director, theatre company or other practitioner linked to the candidate's practical work.

Second Year

A2: Unit 3: Further Prescribed Plays including Pre-Twentieth Century

Written Paper: 2 hours (30% of total A Level marks) - 100 marks

Section A: Choice of one pre-20th century play and one 20th century/contemporary play.

Section B: Synoptic - suggestions for a complete stage realisation of an extract from a specified play.

Unit 4: Presentation of Devised Drama

Coursework: (20% of total A Level marks) - 100 marks

Group performance of devised drama, performed in a theatrical style of their choice. Candidates will research into a theatrical style chosen by the group for their practical work. Assessment includes preparatory and development work. The performance will be marked by the centre and moderated by AQA.

Aptitudes, skills or qualities you will need:-

It is anticipated that students from a variety of backgrounds will present themselves as candidates. Some will have achieved qualifications at GCSE or its equivalent, some may have validated attainments in performing and speech examinations.

Candidates, however, are required to have a broad understanding of drama and theatre across period, genre and style and the ability to develop skills, knowledge and understanding across the Assessment Objectives to levels appropriate to AS and A2 certification.

Value of the subject for higher education and future careers:-

Drama and Theatre Studies provides opportunities for progression to courses in higher education in the subject area or in other subjects as an entry qualification. Drama and Theatre Studies contributes to national provision of AS/A Level qualifications in offering subject content which is distinct from that of other subjects, serving as complementary to study in other arts subjects or as a contrasting discipline with study in other areas.

Opportunity will be provided, if candidates wish, to showcase their performance work to invited agents and casting directors from stage, film and television.