



A LEVEL DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE COURSE

Component 1: Devising.

This component is similar to the GCSE devised unit for Edexcel and other exam boards. There is a practical exam (performing or design element), that you devise from a stimulus in the style of a chosen theatre practitioner, and a written portfolio that accompanies it.

Component 1: Devising (*Component Code: 9DR0/01)

Non-examination assessment
40% of the qualification
80 marks

Content overview

- Devise an original performance piece.
- Use one key extract from a performance text and a theatre practitioner as stimuli.
- Centre choice of text and practitioner.
- Performer or designer routes available.

Component 2: Text in Performance

You will perform, or complete a design element, for two scripted extracts, one of these will be a group piece and the other one will be a monologue or a duologue.

Component 2: Text in Performance (*Component Code: 9DR0/02)

Non-examination assessment

20% of the qualification

60 marks

Content overview

- A group performance/design realisation of **one key extract** from a performance text.
- A monologue or duologue performance/design realisation from **one key extract** from a different performance text.
- Centre choice of performance texts.

Assessment overview

- AO2 is assessed.
- Externally assessed by a visiting examiner.
- Group performance/design realisation: worth 36 marks.
- Monologue or duologue/design realisation: worth 24 marks.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

This is a written exam taken with your other A Level exams. It involves answering questions on two performance texts; currently Equus and Woyzeck, and your knowledge of a key theatre practitioner. You also have a question on a piece of live theatre that we will go and see.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (*Paper Code: 9DR0/03)

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes

40% of the qualification

80 marks

Content overview

- Live theatre evaluation – choice of performance.
- Practical exploration and study of a **complete performance text** – focusing on how this can be realised for performance.
- Practical exploration and interpretation of **another complete performance text**, in light of a chosen **theatre practitioner** – focusing on how this text could be reimagined for a contemporary audience.

WHAT THE CURRENT Y13 WANT YOU TO KNOW!

- There is a lot of written work – more than you think in comparison to GCSE: **That's why it is an Advanced Level**
- It takes a lot of your time outside of lessons to prepare for exams: **You have to be disciplined about this and accept it as part of the course**
- You are expected to attend prep sessions as if they are lessons: **It is difficult to set some group activities as HW so you have extra time on your timetable to get them done. It is also used as extra time to complete portfolios and research. It is not teacher led but work is set by me.**
- You have to stick to deadlines: **At this level, you cannot afford to fall behind on work as you can quickly feel overwhelmed. The deadlines are there to help keep you on track.**

OTHER THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- You must have comfortable clothing for practical work that allows you to move easily, this must include trousers/leggings and not skirts. Students that turn up for practical lessons in inappropriate clothing will be asked to find an alternative in order to be allowed to participate. The easiest thing to do is to always have a pair of joggers or leggings in school.
- The theatre trips are a compulsory part of the course, so you are expected to attend. As much notice as possible will be given for this.

THEATRE STUDIES SUMMER TASK

Over the Summer, please go to the theatre, any theatre, and watch a drama production.

Make notes on:

- What the play is about
- Who the main characters are
- The themes and issues addressed in the play
- Costume – and what it might symbolise
- Set - and what it might symbolise (this includes use of projection)
- Lighting – how it enhances the ideas in the scenes
- Sound – how it creates atmosphere and tension for the audience
- Acting – how gestures, facial expressions, vocal expression, movement and space are used to help tell us the story, subtext and character traits.
- How movement is used to tell the story.
- For each of these, try and analyse what the director wanted you to understand about the themes, characters and subtext. Get into the habit of analysing everything you see, this will be a key skill for the course.

TODAY'S TASK – STAGE DIRECTIONS VS NONE

- You will be looking at two scripts. One has stage directions and one has none. At the end of this lesson, you will need to be able to identify which one you prefer and why.

1. What are stage directions?

2. What do you think the advantages will be in having them?

3. What do you think the advantages will be to not having any?