

The Course

The Edexcel specification consists of three components:

Component 1: Devising (Practical)

- You will study an extract from a play and devise an original piece of drama from it, applying the methods of a theatre practitioner to your work.
- As well as the performance, you will create a written portfolio and be marked on elements.
- For this component you can choose to perform as an actor, or can undertake the role of a designer (costume, lighting, set, sound).
- This component is internally assessed by your teacher and externally moderated.

Component 2: Text in Performance (Practical)

- In this component you will perform two pieces; a monologue or duologue from a play of your choice, and a group piece of an extract from a different play.
- As part of this component you can choose to perform as an actor, or can undertake the role of a designer (costume, lighting, set, sound).
- This component is externally assessed by a visiting examiner.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (Written)

The 2 hour and 30 minute written exam covers three areas:

- A live theatre evaluation.
- Page to stage realisation of one extract from a performance text as an actor and designer. (Modern play)
- The creation of a directorial concept for a complete performance text, using the methodology of a practitioner, making the text relevant for a contemporary audience. (Classic Text)

What is Drama and Theatre Studies?

Drama and Theatre studies offers students the opportunity to explore drama as a practical art form, in which ideas and meaning are communicated to an audience through choices of form, style and convention. As part of the course, Theatre Studies students are required to watch and analyse live productions, often attending at least 10 a year, developing their ability to understand theatrical conventions and articulate their understanding of how theatre makers communicate meaning to an audience. There is also a variety of opportunities for students to create their own drama, both as a response to text and from their own collective imaginations. You will learn to effectively and creatively whilst maintaining rigorous self-reflection and ambitious intellectual curiosity. You will





explore the context and production history of texts as well as learning to remain independent of thought and original in your approach to realising those texts for audiences.

Why study Drama and Theatre Studies?

Theatre is possibly the most powerful and dynamic means of communication available to mankind and the A Level course encourages students to develop an independent and enthusiastic interest in the theatre arts, both in and outside school. Theatre Studies is well-known as a subject that produces confident and creative thinkers who are excellent at working collaboratively, powerful problem solvers and capable of intellectual risk-taking; as such, it is highly valued at every institution of higher learning in the country.

What do I need to study Drama and Theatre Studies?

A minimum Grade 6 in GCSE English or Drama is required and a Grade 7 is strongly recommended.

The nature of the syllabus demands that you have strong independent learning skills. It is a challenging and immensely rewarding course, and a high degree of personal motivation and organisation is required. You do not need to have studied Drama at GCSE Level to pursue the A Level course.

A Level subject video available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYojKKxAAGg>

