

Academic Requirements

Every university in the country recognises Theatre Studies as a full and academic A level. GCSE Drama is not a prerequisite for Theatre Studies. During this course, candidates will study theatre right through the ages, from the Greeks to modern day. Styles and practitioners are explored to enhance the student's understanding and enjoyment of the theatre. Emphasis is placed on the candidates directing and devising their own work, which creates an in-depth knowledge of the process of productions.

Course specification: Edexcel Drama and Theatre Studies (8DR01 & 9DR01)

AS Units:**Unit 1 Exploration of Drama and Theatre** (40% of total AS marks)

This unit is a detailed study of two plays from the point of view of performer, director and designer. Candidates will explore the plays through practical workshops and 'exploration notes'. Students are also required to experience a live theatre performance and submit an evaluation. This unit is internally marked and externally moderated.

Unit 2 Theatre Text in Performance (60% of total AS marks)

The first section of this unit requires students to offer either a monologue or duologue. The second section requires students to contribute to a performance of a professionally published play by a known writer. Students may offer either acting or a design form and must also provide a concept of the interpretation of their chosen roles or designs. This unit will be directed by the Head of Drama and is marked by an external examiner.

A2 Units (AS units contribute 50% of the marks of the full A level):

Unit 3 – Exploration of Dramatic Performance (40% of total A2 marks)

This unit requires the creation of a unique and original piece of theatre. Students will be assessed on the research and development of their work as well as the final performance in front of an identified audience. They are also required to complete an evaluation on both the process and performance of their work. This unit is internally assessed and externally moderated.

Unit 4 – Text in context II (60% of total A2 marks) (written)

Sections A and B require students to explore one play, from a choice of three set play texts, from the point of view of a director in both an academic and practical way.

In Section C a selection must be made of one from a choice of three historic periods of theatre history. A live performance of a play from the chosen period must be experienced and evaluated and a comparison made with the original staging conditions of the play. This unit is a written exam lasting two and a half hours.

A Student's Perspective:

'The course is excellent for all those interested in acting and/or behind the scenes theatrical management. AS & A2 Drama and Theatre Studies helps to build individual confidence and communication skills. It enables students to co-operate in a team and explore their practical talents. The subject is a refreshing active release from lessons at a desk, making the course relaxed and enjoyable.'