

# Drama and Theatre

## Eduqas A-level Drama and Theatre

Head of Department: Ms Lara Jakes

### Introduction

A-level drama and theatre is a demanding but intensely rewarding and stimulating subject that repays a high level of commitment and creates both a well-rounded individual and a member of a supportive and cohesive community. Unique in the set of sought after skills it develops, it enables students to study and understand performance, design, acting and directing, as well as analyse texts, setting them up for a wide range of higher education options and employment.

### Subject Requirements

Students taking A-level drama and theatre should have gained at least a Grade 7 if they took GCSE drama.

GCSE is not a prerequisite for A-level however, and students wanting to start the course must have demonstrated outside the curriculum the level of experience and skill that the Director of Drama considers an effective foundation for A-level study.

### Course Outline

The course is divided into three components:

#### 1. Theatre Workshop (20%, internally assessed and externally moderated)

Students participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of theatre based on their reinterpretation of an extract from a published script. The piece must be developed using the techniques and working methods of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company, and is assessed on either acting or design.

#### 2. Text in Action (40%, externally assessed )

Students are assessed on either acting or design as they participate in the creation, development and performance of two pieces of theatre based on a stimulus supplied by the exam board. Either as performer or designer, students create and deliver a devised performance and a scripted performance from a published play, before producing a written process and evaluation report within one week of completion of the practical work.

#### 3. Text in Performance (40%, written exam)

Students study three texts from the perspective of a director, designer and actor, applying their knowledge and understanding of theatre to their interpretations and creation of theatrical concepts. Sections A and B are 'open book' (un-annotated copies of the two complete texts chosen are taken into the examination) and are based on two different texts, one written pre-1956 and one written post-1956. Section C is based on a specified extract from *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon, adapted by Simon Stephens.

### Higher Education and Careers

Universities, including those in the Russell Group, value A-level drama & theatre when considering applicants for a wide range of degree courses. This is because they have developed a wide and distinctive range of skills, namely confident communication, collaboration, leadership and creativity, as

well as the ability to analyse and evaluate effectively. A-level drama could therefore aid a very wide range of higher education applications.

Specialist degree courses could be considered either as Joint Honours degrees with drama and other subject combinations, or liberal arts, drama, film and/or TV degrees. More vocational courses can also be applied for at drama schools such as RADA and LAMDA following the study of drama A-level.

Drama helps students develop skills required in a wide range of employment sectors, including business and law, and can be advantageous for careers in PR, marketing, advertising, social media, journalism, therapy, charity work, social work and education. There are also an extremely wide range of careers available within theatre, TV and film.

### **What should I study alongside drama?**

Drama and theatre A-level could be taken in combination with any other subjects, either to build on similar skills in subjects like English and history, or to introduce a contrasting skill set.

### **Is there anything else I should consider?**

It is a common misconception that drama & theatre A-level is not taken as seriously as other subjects by universities or employers. This may have been the case decades ago, but the rigour and unique features of the modern A-level course is held in high regard. Students with drama & theatre A-level gain places in top Russell Group universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. Skills students have gained, notably in communication, often give them an advantageous edge in applications and interviews.