

GCSE DRAMA

What's it all about?

Is GCSE Drama the right choice for you?

- Do you love acting?
- Do you want to learn new performance techniques?
- Do you work well with other people?
- Are you able to perform in front of an audience?
- Do you like going to the theatre?

Most importantly...

- Are you prepared to work hard, not only at the fun, practical bits, but also at the more frustrating written parts?

AQA Examination Board

www.aqa.org.uk

GCSE Drama 8261

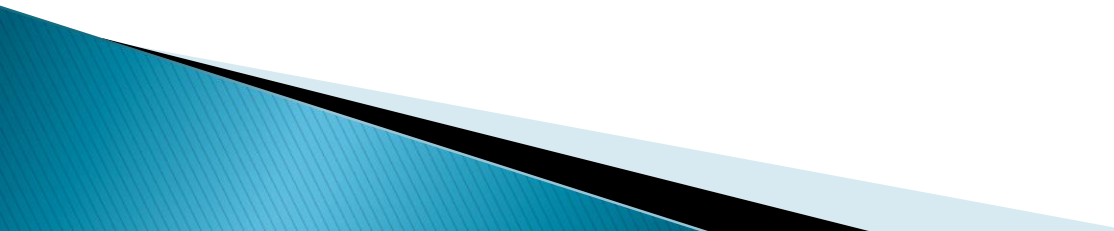
All aspects of the course are explored through practical work; however, it is important to understand that:

- ▶ 30% of the whole GCSE is assessed through acting performances
- ▶ 70% is assessed through written work – a combination of coursework and a final exam

What is in the course?



How the course is made up

- ▶ Component 1: Understanding Drama (written paper) 40%
 - ▶ Component 2: Devising drama (practical and written) 40%
 - ▶ Component 3: Texts in practice (practical) 20%
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Component 1: Understanding Drama (40%)

Written exam in Year 11 – 1 hour 45 minutes

▶ What's assessed?

Section A – Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre. 4 multiple choice questions.

Section B – Study of one set play from a choice of six. Currently “Blood Brothers”. Questions about how you would stage a specific scene and how you would act certain characters.

Section C – Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers. A detailed analysis of acting performances in a play we have watched at the theatre.

Component 2 – Devising Drama (40%)

Coursework and performance

- Students create their own piece of drama, based on a theme or stimulus, working in small groups.
- They each keep a portfolio of work, called the Devising Log, which is in 3 parts:
 - 1) Explain how you responded to the stimulus (10%)
 - 2) Analyse your decision-making in creating the piece (10%)
 - 3) Evaluate the final performance (10%)
- They perform their piece to an audience, and the performance is marked by the teacher (10%).

Component 2 is marked by the teacher
and moderated by AQA

Component 3 – Texts in Practice (20%)

Performance

- Students study a published play, which contrasts with the play they have studied for the written paper.
- They can work in small groups or perform a monologue.
- They choose 2 extracts which allow them to show their character's development or a contrasting character.
- The performances must meet specified time restrictions.
- They perform in front of an audience and a visiting examiner from the AQA exam board.

How is it different from KS3 Drama?

- 4 lessons a fortnight instead of one
- MUCH MORE WRITING
- Performances in front of an audience – not just your classmates – and you only get the one chance to impress!
- Much more homework, including written work and learning lines... HOWEVER... you also get
- Classmates who have chosen to study Drama.
- More satisfying opportunities to create and develop interesting performances
- Evening theatre visits which you will be expected to attend, because you have to write about them in the exam

So...

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- Do you like going to the theatre?

Most importantly...

- Are you prepared to work hard, not only at the fun, practical bits, but also at the more frustrating written parts? (And there are a lot of them!)

Any Questions?

- ▶ Aqa.org.uk
- ▶ GCSE Drama 8261