Guilsborough Academy Sixth Form

KS5 Curriculum



A Level

Drama and Theatre

Course Title:
Drama and Theatre

Entry Requirements:
Grade 5 in GCSE Drama or an English subject if not studied

Examination Board
AQA

Component 1: Drama and Theatre (40%)
Students develop their knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre through the study of two set plays and the analysis of a live theatre production. They explore dramatic techniques, performance choices and the work of theatre makers. Assessment is through a 3- hour open-book written examination.

Component 2: Creating Original Drama (30%)
Students work collaboratively to devise and perform an original piece of theatre, inspired by a chosen theatre practitioner. They develop creativity, teamwork and performance skills while documenting their ideas, research and creative decisions in a working notebook.

Component 3: Making Theatre (30%)
Students explore and rehearse extracts from three different plays, developing their acting, directing or design skills. They apply the techniques of a theatre practitioner, present a performance to a visiting examiner and complete a reflective report evaluating their creative work.

- **Is This Course Right for Me?**
- Public speaking and presentation skills
- Teamwork and leadership
- Creative problem-solving
- Research and analysis
- Independence and self-management
- Confidence under pressure
- Communication with different audiences

A LEVEL DRAMA AND THEATRE

Unit Contents:

Component 1: Drama and theatre

What's assessed

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
- Study of two set plays, one chosen from List A, one chosen from List B
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 3 hours
- Open book
- 80 marks
- 40% of A-level

Questions

- Section A: one question (from a choice) on one of the set plays from List A (25 marks)
- Section B: one three part question on a given extract from one of the set plays from List B (30 marks)
- Section C: one question (from a choice) on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production (25 marks)

Component 2: Creating Original Drama

Students create their own original piece of theatre through a collaborative devising process. Inspired by a chosen theatre practitioner, they research ideas, experiment with performance techniques and develop a production for an audience. Students may specialise as performers, directors or designers, allowing them to develop their individual strengths. Alongside the practical performance, they complete a working notebook that documents their creative decision-making, research and development. This unit encourages imagination, teamwork, leadership and problem-solving while helping students understand how professional theatre is devised, rehearsed and refined from an initial concept into a finished performance.

Component 3: Making Theatre

Students explore, rehearse and interpret extracts from three different plays, developing their understanding of a wide range of theatrical styles and contexts. They investigate how performance choices can communicate ideas and meaning to an audience, applying the methods of a theatre practitioner to one assessed extract. Students may work as performers, directors or designers and present a final performance to a visiting examiner. They also complete a reflective report evaluating their creative choices and progress. This unit strengthens practical theatre skills, independent thinking and self-evaluation while preparing students for the collaborative nature of professional theatre-making.

Progression:

Students who take Drama and Theatre Studies often progress to a wide range of career pathways:
Drama, Acting, Musical Theatre, Directing, Stage Management, Creative Arts, English Literature, Media Studies, Film Studies, Journalism, Education, Law, Marketing and Business



Examples of university courses and grades required:

- Warwick Degree in Drama: AAB
- Bath Spa Degree in Acting: BBB-BCC including B in Drama
- Central School of Speech and Drama: 2 A Levels and BTEC Level 3
- Central School of Speech and Drama – audition
- LIPA – audition
- RADA – audition

Most drama schools will be by audition. We have in place a support system to help those students wishing to take this pathway. Help and advice with auditions is given within the drama department.

Further Information Contact:
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