

GCSE Drama

Course Details	AQA GCSE Drama (8261) <p>The subject content for GCSE Drama is divided into three components:</p> <p>Component 1: Understanding Drama – study of a set play and a 1 hour 45 minute written examination in Summer Term of Year 11.</p> <p>Component 2: Devised Practical performance and Devising logbook.</p> <p>Component 3: Practical performance of two extracts from a play</p> <p>Theatre trips are an essential part of GCSE Drama and it is compulsory for students to attend these.</p>
Exam Details	Component 1: Understanding drama <p>Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre, study of one set play from a choice of six, analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers.</p> <p>Exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes, open book (40% of GCSE).</p> <p>Section A: multiple choice</p> <p>Section B: four questions on a given extract from the set play chosen</p> <p>Section C: one question (from a choice) on the work of theatre</p>
Other Assessment	Component 2: Devising Drama performed in Autumn Term of Year 11 Component 3: Texts in Practice in Spring Term of Year 11
Subject support	Additional weekly rehearsal slots: Monday and Thursday lunchtime
Revision Guidance	Learning lines for practical examination. Attending additional rehearsals after school, weekends and in school holidays all confirmed via parent letters. Attendance in school is vital for effective rehearsals during lessons.
Useful Websites	Students should access the VLE for links to helpful website and study resources. www.samlearning.com provides useful exercises for developing written techniques and analytical skills. http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects is a useful revision tool http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama The AQA Drama website has sample assessment materials.
What can I do?	Help your daughter to learn any lines. Accompany your daughter to professional productions outside of school to gain experience of live theatre.
What does your daughter need to do to succeed in this subject?	Maintain a positive attitude and an inquisitive mind. Be willing to work with others effectively and experiment with different theatrical forms and techniques.
What does your daughter need to do to excel in this subject?	Visit a range of live theatre productions regularly. Conduct wider reading of theatre practitioners and styles, and read professional theatre reviews.

Be prepared to take risks and challenge yourself!

Frequently asked questions

What percentage is practical work and what is the written exam for the GCSE?

The students will do two practical assessments – one from a scripted play and one from a theme where they devise their own performance in a group. Both of these assessments together makes 60% of the GCSE grade. The written paper at the end of Year 11 makes up the other 40%.

Do students need to rehearse after school every week?

They do not need to rehearse every week after school, but when it is coming near to their actual assessment they will be rehearsing after school at a time that suits them. Students will need to be prepared for this as it is an essential part of the course.

How much will the theatre trips cost?

As part of their written exam students need to see as much live theatre as possible.

As a department we will take students to see relevant productions locally and in London. We keep the cost as low as possible. We find our students benefit greatly from the opportunity to see live theatre. It not only helps them in their written examination, but also in their practical work.