

GCSE Drama

Course Specifications

Course Title: Drama

Exam Board: Edexcel/Pearson

Link to specification: [Drama Specification](#)

Grading: 1-9

Course Details

What will you learn?

Year 10

Autumn

Introduction to GCSE

Students will take part in practical workshops to extend their knowledge of practical Drama rooted in understanding of key styles and practitioners.

Students will read the play, An Inspector Calls, required for Component 3: Section A. Students will look into the history of the play, context, character study before studying the production Elements to consider how to bring this play to life.

Spring

Component 1

Students will begin devising their Component 1 performance. This will require students to keep a lesson by lesson log of their process and use influences of styles and practitioners they have enjoyed throughout their studies. Students will perform this to an audience and complete a written portfolio to support. This performance is completed in Year 10.

Summer

Component 1 Portfolio

Students will develop their written response to their Component 1 Performances. This is a 2000 word written reflection that focuses on their devising journey.

Component 3: Section A

Students will continue to student An Inspector Calls looking at further production elements to support their designs.

Year 11**Autumn****Component 3**

Students study An Inspector Calls, building their design from an actor, director and designers point of view considering Priestley's original intentions. Students will begin to focus on exam questions and how to approach the exam paper.

Component 2

Students are given 2 extracts from a play, they either alone or with a group will prepare and rehearse their performances directed by themselves and their teacher.

Spring**Component 2**

Final rehearsals and performance exam to a live audience.

Component 3 - Section B

Live Theatre Review - Students will watch a piece of live theatre and consider how creators of that theatre made the choices they did in relation to the impact on the audience. Will consider costume, lighting, set, props and stage furniture, staging and acting.

Summer**Component 3**

Revision for Component 3 exam, both Section A and B.

How will you be assessed?**During the course:****Year 10:**

Component 1 - 40% GCSE (Performance: MAY Portfolio: JULY)

End of Year Exam - Component 3: Section A (JUNE/JULY)

Year 11:

PPE 1 Exam - Component 3 (NOVEMBER)

Component 2 - 20% GCSE (FEBRUARY)

PPE 2 - Component 3 (MARCH)

Component 3 - 40% GCSE (MAY)

At the end of the course:

Your final grade will be awarded based on the following examinations and / or coursework.

Component 1 The Devising Process 40% (Performance and Written) - Students devise a piece of theatre which they then perform. They will record the process in a portfolio. Internally assessed and externally moderated.

Component 2 Text for Performance 20% (Performance) - Performance of two extracts from a text. Performed to an examiner – externally marked.

Component 3 Theatre makers in practice. 40% (Written Exam: 1 hour 45 min). Section A: An Inspector Calls Section B: Live Theatre Review
40% - Set text that is explored practically then answering questions from the perspective of the director, designer and rehearsal process. Evaluation of a piece of live theatre they have seen.

What independent work can you do?

Learn:

Glossary of Key Terms

[Glossary](#)

RAG and Revisit:

Explore:

Recommended Activities:

See your Drama Teacher for access to online digital libraries.

Revise:

Top tips and strategies

Re-read Texts:

- Revisit key texts, paying attention to character motivations, themes, and dramatic techniques. Summarize each scene to reinforce understanding.

Create Mind Maps:

- Use mind maps to visually organize information, connecting characters, themes, and dramatic elements. This aids in recalling information during exams.

Character Analysis:

- Create detailed character profiles, including motivations, relationships, and key quotes. Understand each character's journey throughout the play.

Rehearse Scenes:

- Act out key scenes or monologues. This helps in understanding the characters and their

emotions while reinforcing the dialogue.

Watch Performances:

- Watch live or recorded performances of the plays studied. This provides a visual understanding of staging, interpretation, and character portrayal.

Create Flashcards:

- Make flashcards for key terms, definitions, and quotes. Use these for quick revision and self-quizzing.

Use Revision Guides:

- Refer to drama revision guides for concise summaries, key points, and exam tips. These guides often break down complex concepts into manageable sections.

Practice Exam Questions:

- Answer past exam questions to familiarise yourself with the format and practice articulating your ideas within the time constraints.

Group Discussions:

- Engage in group discussions with peers to gain different perspectives and insights. Discussing the plays can deepen your understanding and provide fresh interpretations.

Create a Timeline:

- Develop a revision schedule that covers all aspects of the exam. Allocate specific time slots for each play, focusing on different elements like characters, themes, and dramatic techniques.

Visual Aids:

- Create visual aids such as timelines, charts, or diagrams to represent the structure of the play, character relationships, and key events.

Use Mnemonics:

- Create mnemonics or acronyms to remember key information, such as character names or themes. This can be a helpful memory aid.

Record and Review:

- Record yourself discussing key concepts, then listen to the recording. This auditory reinforcement can enhance retention.

Summarise Each Act:

- Write concise summaries for each act of the plays. Focus on the main events, character developments, and thematic elements.

Visit Drama Websites:

- Explore online resources and educational websites that provide additional insights, analysis, and study guides for the plays studied.

Create a Study Group:

- Form a study group with classmates to quiz each other, discuss interpretations, and share revision notes.

Utilise Online Quizzes:

- Take advantage of online quizzes and practice exams related to Drama GCSE. This helps in assessing your knowledge and identifying areas for improvement.

Reflect on Feedback:

- If you've received feedback on past assessments, exams, or performances, take the time to reflect on the comments and incorporate them into your revision.

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Which resources should you use?

Textbooks, websites, online resources

Use the GCSE website BBC Bitesize to help challenge your theory

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zkvm2sg>

Read plays around themes, genres and topics you are interested in. Samuel French has a great selection and they have enormous selection in their London Store. Equally you can visit the National Theatre Bookshop.

Talk to your teachers to see if they can recommend any play texts for you to read or watch digitally or at the Theatre. **Can provide access to online recordings of popular plays.**

Take part in any extracurricular opportunities and clubs that are happening in the department. Visiting the theatre and watching different styles of performance. Local theatre's include; Lyric Hammersmith, Beck Theatre, Hayes, The Questors Theatre, Acton, Bush Theatre, National Theatre and many more.

Visiting the V&A; A museum where there is an exhibition about theatre including examples of costume from west end productions.

Attend theatre productions to develop your experience of theatre and a sense of style.