

GCSE Drama (AQA)

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Knowledge in Drama

The key to learning Drama and to make the process of learning work best, **knowledge** must come first.

Influential Theatre Practitioners

Understanding how Theatre is created

Procedural knowledge: how learners express their knowledge, from writing an exam to creating a performance.

Styles and Genres of Theatre

Design principles

Texts and playwrights from different eras

Drama and Theatre terminology

INTERVIEW
IN PROGRESS

HIRE ME!

New
Job

Key skills in Drama



Communication

Problem Solving

Performance skills

**Collaboration and
teamwork**

Presentation skills



To be successful in Drama GCSE students need to be able to spend an equal amount of time reading, making, theorising and writing about theatre

Adaptability

Commitment

Creativity

Time management

Analysis

Employment Skills



**Oral communication
Skills**

Respect for deadlines

Creative problem solving

**Adaptability and
flexibility**

Team work

Working under pressure

Self discipline

Confidence

Leadership skills

Respect for peers

**AQA GCSE
Drama has
three
strands or
components**

Component 1:

Understanding Drama

Component 2:

Devising Drama

Component 3:

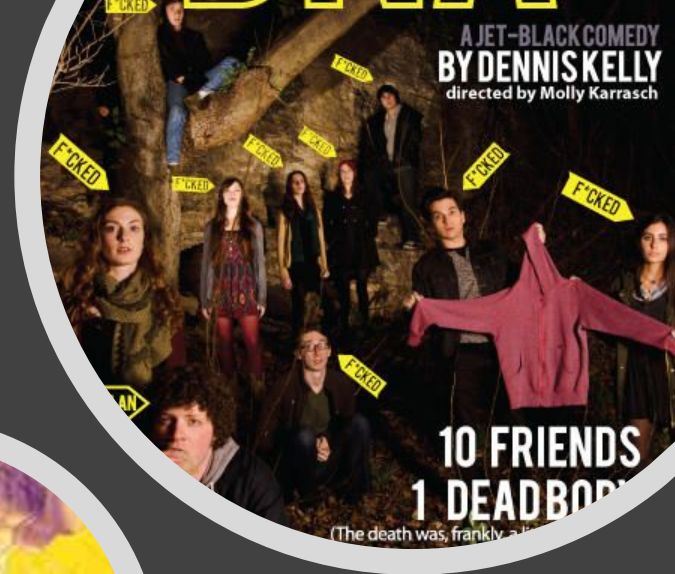
Texts in Performance

Component 1:

Understanding Drama

- Knowledge and understanding of Drama and Theatre
- Study of one set play from a choice of six- we study 'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

**Assessed in a written exam lasting
1 hour and 45 minutes**



Assessment overview: Component 1



What's assessed

- Knowledge and understanding of Drama and Theatre
- Study of one set play from a choice of nine
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes
- Open book
- 80 marks
- 40% of GCSE

Questions

- Section A: multiple choice (4 marks)
- Section B: four questions on a given extract from the set play chosen (44 marks)
- Section C: one question (from a choice) on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production (32 marks)

ASPIRE • BELIEVE • ACHIEVE

Component 2: *Devising Drama*

- Create and develop a devised piece from a stimulus (free choice for centres).
- Performance of this devised piece or design realisation for this performance.
- Analyse and evaluate the devising process and performance.
- Performer or designer routes available.

Assessed in a written devising log worth 60 marks and a devised performance worth 20 marks.



Assessment overview: Component 2



What's assessed

- Process of creating devised drama
- Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer or designer)
- Analysis and evaluation of own work

How it's assessed

- Devising log (60 marks)
- Devised performance (20 marks)
- 80 marks in total
- 40% of GCSE

This component is **marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.**



Component 3: *Text in performance*

- Performance of two extracts from one play (students may contribute as performer or designer)
- Monologues, duologues or small group performances

**Assessment in Performance by a
visiting external examiner from AQA**



Assessment overview: Component 3



What's assessed

- Performance of two extracts from one play (students may contribute as performer or designer)

Free choice of play but it must contrast with the set play chosen for Component 1

How it's assessed

- Performance of Extract 1 (20 marks) **and** Extract 2 (20 marks)
- 40 marks in total
- 20% of GCSE

This component is assessed by a visiting examiner from AQA in front of a live theatre audience

To be successful, you must



- **Be confident to perform in front of other people - or at least willing to give it a go** (although your confidence will grow as the course goes on and you become more proficient)
- **Be predicted at least a grade 4 in English in order to cope with the significant written element** (written examination and written portfolio). *I will provide lots of guidance for both*
- **Be prepared to work with anyone in your group whether you like them or not** (including mixed gender groups)
- **Be passionate about live theatre and Drama on television/film**
- **Be prepared to rehearse after school** and/or at break times at certain times of the year
- **Be creative and full of ideas** for developing drama work
- **Be keen to read around the set texts and to research different styles of Drama**
- **Not take the subject because you think it is “easy” or “because your friend is doing it” or because you think it is all going to be practical. It is 70% written and 30% practical!** *That said, the written work is nearly always linked to practical work*

Where will GCSE Drama take you?



LAW



TEACHING



ACTING



BANKING



BUSINESS



JOURNALISM



MEDICINE

Next steps & enrichment opportunities

- ❑ **Drama is a great subject to continue to study post 16** - either in its own right as an A Level (numerous examination boards including AQA) which is more academic. Or via a BTEC in Performing Arts which is more vocational
- ❑ Drama is a very popular subject at University too where, again you can specialise in the academic study of the theatre, key dramatists and practitioners and theatre history, OR choose a more vocational route training in acting, directing, devising, writing and so on.
- ❑ Drama is a great subject to do alongside other arts subjects such as Music, Art or Media Studies if you want a career in the Arts industry. Others decide that they want to do Drama as a 4th A Level alongside perhaps the Sciences or History and Law etc as it develops strengths and confidence in performing and presenting to an audience which employers value highly.

Enrichment opportunities that link to the qualification include: theatre trips, productions and events, visiting artist/practical workshops on texts and elements of Drama and much more besides


A woman in a business suit is running on a large, white, spherical object. The background is a sunset sky with a large sun on the right side. The word "JOB" is written in large, dark letters on the right side of the image.

Where will GCSE Drama take you?

Anywhere!

All employers and university tutors are seeking to recruit individuals who can demonstrate key skills such as **confidence**, **communication skills** and **leadership**.

DRAMA GCSE is no different in value to any other GCSE- you earn the same points which will help you get into sixth form or college!



Any questions?
Email Mr B. Slade at
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**Don't follow the
crowd and be the
same as
everyone else.**

Take Drama GCSE and grow
your knowledge, skills and
empathy