

# A Level Drama and Theatre



## Why this subject?

The course is designed to engage students through encouraging creativity, focusing on practical work which reflects 21st-century theatre practice and developing skills that will support progression to further study of drama and a wide range of other subjects.

## Course Outline

### Component 1: Devising - Coursework (40%)

- Devise an original performance piece.
- Use one key extract from a performance text and a theatre practitioner as stimuli.
- Performer or designer routes available.

### Component 2: Text in Performance - Coursework (20%)

- A group performance/design realisation of **one key extract** from a performance text.
- A monologue or duologue performance/design realisation from **one key extract** from a different performance text.

### Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

#### Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes (40%)

- Live theatre evaluation – choice of performance, (past performance seen include Kneehigh's 'Dead Dog in a Suitcase' and the RSCs 'Romeo and Juliet').
- Practical exploration and study of a **complete performance text** – focusing on how this can be realised for performance.  
Practical exploration and interpretation of **another complete performance text**, in light of a chosen **theatre practitioner** – focusing on how this text could be reimaged for a contemporary audience.



## Key Information

Exam Board	Edexcel
Qualification Type	A Level
Entry Requirements	Applied A Level Pathway. Level 6 in GCSE Drama.
Head of Department	Mrs Paget-Marsh

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## Assessment Outline

### **Component 1: Devising**

- Use one key extract from a performance text and a theatre practitioner as stimuli.
- There are two parts to the assessment:
  - 1) A written portfolio between 2500–3000 words (60 marks).
  - 2) Group devised performance (20 marks).

### **Component 2: Text in Performance**

- Externally assessed by a visiting examiner.
- Group performance/design realisation of a script (36 marks).
- Monologue or duologue/design realisation: worth (24 marks).

### **Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (2 hours 30 minutes written exam)**

#### **Section A: Live Theatre Evaluation**

- Students answer one extended response question from a choice of two requiring them to analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance.
- Students are allowed to bring in theatre evaluation notes of up to a maximum of 500 words.

#### **Section B: Page to Stage: Realising a Performance Text**

- Students answer two extended response questions based on an unseen extract from the performance text they have studied. (Current text: 'Accidental Death of an Anarchist' by Dario Fo).
- Students will demonstrate how they, as theatre makers, intend to realise the extract in performance.
- Students answer from the perspective of a performer and a designer.

#### **Section C: Interpreting a Performance Text**

- Students will answer one extended response question from a choice of two based on an unseen named section from their chosen performance text. (Current texts: 'Dr Faustus' by Christopher Marlowe and 'Antigone' by Sophocles).
- Students will demonstrate how their re-imagined production concept will communicate ideas to a contemporary audience.
- Students will also need to outline how the work of their chosen theatre practitioner has influenced their overall production concept and demonstrate an awareness of the performance text in its original performance conditions.



## Careers and next steps

There are a growing number of professions that value those people who studied Drama as a subject. Many colleges and prestigious universities, including Oxbridge, value Drama as an additional subject for all courses.

These professions include actor, radio present, blogger, teacher, stage designer, costume designer, medicine, law, public relations, journalism, diplomacy, politics, social work, hospitality, tourism and leisure.

