

## A Level Drama and Theatre FAQs



### **I don't want to go into acting, is there any point taking A Level Drama and Theatre?**

Yes. By taking Drama and Theatre studies you are developing, and evidencing, that you have the key employability skills which are desired for employees of the future. STEMNET and the University of Exeter have produced a list of the top ten desirable skills companies such as BP, Nokia, EDF, Siemens and many more, wish their future staff to possess. Nine of these ten skills are explicitly evidenced in Performing Arts students, and their lessons, on a regular basis: communication skills; to be able to problem solve; to apply your own initiative; to be able to work under pressure; to be organised; to work as part of a team; to take on the ideas of others; to be adaptable and to be able to identify the needs of others. Numeracy is the tenth skill, which may not be as explicit in Performing Arts, but is still very relevant, through the ability to sequence. An A Level in Drama and Theatre is telling future employers or Higher Educational institutes that you have developed the key employability skills needed for life.

### **A Level Drama and Theatre is not worth the same amount of UCAS points as other more academic subjects.**

This statement is false. All A Level subjects generate the same overall UCAS points for each grade achieved, so for example a B grade in Drama and Theatre, and a B grade in Maths are both worth 40 UCAS points.

### **Drama and Theatre is an easy option subject.**

No. There is a distinction which needs to be made, which is ease of subject and enjoyment of subject are two completely different things. Students who enjoy Drama and Theatre, and also excel, are students who are self-motivated and extremely organised. Drama and Theatre will challenge you in different ways to other subjects, but this does not mean the course is a so-called 'easy option'.

### **Which theatre companies and practitioners do you study?**

Across the qualification you will need to demonstrate an ability to produce work in contrasting styles and genres. Typically, the theatre practitioners you will cover are: Stanislavski, Brecht and Berkoff; in addition, Artaud, Boal and Le Coq may also be studied. In terms of theatre companies, you will be able to experiment with the styles of groups such as Kneehigh, Frantic Assembly and Le Navet Bete.

### **Which exam board do you use?**

AQA. Here is a link to the specification:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/drama/specifications/AQA-7262-SP-2016.PDF>

### **Do we do any coursework?**

The term coursework is no longer used and has been replaced by the phrase non-examined assessment (or NEAs) in short. NEAs are pieces of work assessed by your teacher and moderated by the exam board; work can be produced in school and at home, so in essence, yes, this is what could be referred to as coursework.

In Drama and Theatre, you will complete one component of NEA, component two. In this component, you will create a piece of drama, emerging from a stimuli provided by your teacher. There are 60 marks available, 40 marks for your written notebook, outlining the process of developing your piece, and 20 marks for the actual performance.

### **Does a visiting examiner come and watch us perform?**

Yes. For component three, a performance of one selected text performance, from a choice of three. The examiner will allocate a mark out of 40 for this performance, with a further 20 marks being available for your written log and evaluation.

### **What kind of questions will we get in the written examination?**

The written examination is broken into three parts.

In Section A, you will be given a choice of questions and you select one to answer. This question will be based on a set text you have studied, from AQA's List A – previously, students have been taught 'A Servant to Two Masters' and 'Accidental Death of an Anarchist', for this element of the course.

In Section B, you will be given a three-part question, based on a set text from AQA's List B – previous students have studied the play 'Our Country's Good' for this element of the course.

In Section C, you will be given a choice of questions and you select one to answer. You will evaluate a live theatre production you have seen, and analyse how effectively a specific element of the production was realised.

### **Do I need to have studied Drama at GCSE to do the A Level course?**

No, not necessarily. Although the A Level builds on skills and knowledge developed from the GCSE course, you are still able to opt for the subject. You will be offered the chance to demonstrate your performance skill level through an audition to a Drama and Theatre teacher if you do not have a GCSE grade for Drama. Teachers will also set reading and research tasks for you to 'upskill' yourself, prior to the course commencing.

### **What do A Level Drama and Theatre students go on to study?**

Drama and Theatre studies lends itself to a multitude of career pathways across different disciplines. Students have gone on to: pursue performing arts at a higher level; gone on to study medicine or veterinary science; pursue Bachelor of Arts courses, including Literature and History; study business, law and journalism. In short, wherever a career path requires human interaction and intra-personal skills are required, these are fields Drama students flourish in.

### **Who can I contact for more information?**

Please contact Mr Swabey, Head of Performing Arts via email at: [cswabey@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:cswabey@plymstockschool.org.uk)