

# Drama GCSE

## Overview

GCSE Drama helps you develop new and existing skills in drama. This specification offers you the opportunity to specialise either as a performer or a technician. The course is an appropriate foundation for progression in Drama and theatre studies.

## Topics

This GCSE includes the following elements:

- Creating devised drama (including the technical aspects) (40% of GCSE)
- Performing from a scripted play or realisation of technical skill. (20% of GCSE)
- Understanding Drama (Studying a play for a written exam) (40% of GCSE)

The set plays (from which one is explored practically) include:

- Playwright Set play
- Arthur Miller - The Crucible
- Willy Russell - Blood Brothers
- Carl Grose (Kneehigh Theatre) - Hansel and Gretel
- Malorie Blackman/Dominic Cooke - Noughts and Crosses

To complete the course, you can either work as a performer (actor) or in a technical role in one of the following disciplines.

- Lighting design
- Sound design
- Set design
- Costume design
- Puppet design

## Course Structure

| Component                     | What is assessed?  | How is it assessed?  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| 1: Understanding Drama        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre</li><li>• Study of one set play from a choice of six</li><li>• Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Written exam: (1 hour and 45 minutes)</li><li>• Open book (80 marks)</li></ul> <p><b>40% of GCSE</b></p> |
| 2: Devising Drama (Practical) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Process of creating devised drama</li><li>• Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer or designer)</li><li>• Analysis and evaluation of own work</li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Devising log (60 marks)</li><li>• Devised performance (20 marks)</li></ul>                               |

|                                     |   |  |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
|                                     |   | <b>80 marks in total</b><br><br><b>40% of GCSE</b>   |
| 3: Texts in practice<br>(Practical) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance of two extracts from one play (students may contribute as performer or designer)</li> <li>• Free choice of play but it must contrast with the set play chosen for Component 1</li> </ul> | Performance of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extract 1 (20 marks)</li> <li>• Extract 2 (20 marks)</li> </ul><br><b>40 marks in total</b><br><br><b>20% of GCSE</b> |

### Additional Information & Who to Contact

- There are 2 main performances that require you to perform live in front of an audience, one of which will be marked by an external examiner, so students must be willing to rehearse and be prepared to perform or use your technical skills live.
- Students will be working as part of a small group and they need to be willing to contribute to the devised piece which is internally marked and then moderated.
- For more information, please follow the link to the course specification on the exam board website <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/gcse/drama-8261/specification-at-a-glance>
- If you require any further information or have any questions, then please contact Mrs. Owens via email - [sarah.owens@consilium-at.com](mailto:sarah.owens@consilium-at.com) or Miss Slade via email - [zoe.slade@consilium-at.com](mailto:zoe.slade@consilium-at.com)

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