



Introduction

Drama and Theatre is a creative, analytical and evaluative A-level subject, which has both practical and theoretical components. Like all subjects, it is a two-year linear A-level which has practical assessments in both Years 12 and 13, before a final three-hour written exam.

Content

In Year 12, students will focus on Component 2 of the Drama and Theatre A-level. This involves devising a piece of drama from a stimulus, working in groups to create an original and engaging short play. They must then write a 3,000 word piece of coursework exploring their creative process, and also linking their devised drama to a practitioner, usually the founder of theatrical naturalism: Konstantin Stanislavski. The devised piece will be filmed and internally marked, before being externally moderated by the AQA exam board.

Students will also study the Ancient Greek tragedy 'Antigone' by Sophocles, exploring it both practically and analytically, in preparation for the final Component 1 A-level exam at the end of Year 13.

Students will also watch live theatre productions throughout the year, before discussing and compiling notes on the actors' performances, the directorial choices, and the design elements used, again as preparation for a section of the final exam.

Skills

Students will develop their practical drama skills, becoming more confident in their use of their voices and physicality. They will develop teamwork, script-writing and imaginative skills through devising. They will also be able to effectively describe, analyse and evaluate dramatic choices, whether from the perspective of a performer, director or designer.

Homework

Students will be given a range of homework tasks – writing essays and presentations, learning lines, annotating scripts, or reading play extracts.

Assessment

In Year 12, students' devised pieces will be performed and filmed, and they will also complete and hand in their 3,000 explorative coursework related to their devised pieces.

Digital usage in this subject

Students use Google Education as a multifaceted digital resource. In particular, they write scripts for their group devised pieces using shared google docs. They also upload work and check notices on google classroom, and take short quizzes using google forms. Evaluative presentations on theatre productions are created and delivered using Keynote.

On YouTube, students watch short performances, TED talks on design elements and monologues to inspire their own vocal and physical choices as actors. Streamed versions of theatre performances may be accessed from the National Theatre website and others (<https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/ntathome>).

Students may also film each other using the video functions of their iPads, in order to assess and improve their performance choices.

Resources and Materials

Most final pieces will be performed either in the school or in a theatre hired specially for the purpose, so students have the opportunity to work in appropriate theatrical conditions.

Applications and websites habitually used

BBC Bitesize; AQA assessment resources