



Course Title

Exam Board

Drama GCSE

Edexcel

Course Description

Component 1: Devising

Coursework 40% of the qualification – 60 marks

Content overview

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

Component 2: Performance from a text

Coursework 20% of the qualification - 48 marks

Content overview

- Students will either perform in and/or design for two key extracts from a performance text.
- Centre choice of performance text.
- Performer or designer routes available.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes 40% of the qualification - 60 marks

Content overview

- Practical exploration and study of one complete performance text.
- Choice of eight performance texts.
- Live theatre evaluation – free choice of production.

Type of Assessment

Component 1: Devising

- AO1, AO2 and AO4 are assessed.
- Internally assessed and externally moderated.
- There are **two** parts to the assessment:
 - 1 A portfolio covering the creating and developing process and analysis and evaluation of this process (45 marks, assessing AO1 and AO4). The portfolio submission recommendations are:
 - can be handwritten/typed evidence between 1500–2000 words or /
 - can be recorded/verbal evidence between 8–10 minutes or /
 - can be a combination of handwritten/typed evidence (between 750–1000 words) and recorded/verbal evidence (between 4–5 minutes)
 - 2 A devised performance/design realisation (15 marks, assessing AO2).

Component 2: Performance from a text

- AO2 is assessed externally by a visiting examiner.
- Schools are free to cover the performance/designing of the two key extracts in any way they choose.
- The performance/design realisation of each key extract is worth 24 marks.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

Section A: Bringing Texts to Life

- 45 marks, assessing AO3.
- This section consists of one question broken into five parts (short and extended responses) based on an unseen extract from the chosen performance text.
- Performance texts are not allowed in the examination as the extracts will be provided.

Section B: Live Theatre Evaluation

- 15 marks, assessing AO4.
- This section consists of two questions requiring students to analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance they have seen.
- Students are allowed to bring in theatre evaluation notes of up to a maximum of 500 words.

Special Requirements

From 2016 students who choose GCSE Drama will be embarking upon a three year journey that will provide them with two separate qualifications by the end. In Year 9, students will complete a devising unit to prepare them for the GCSE Component One and will also take a grade 4-5 LAMDA exam which enables them to refine and develop their performance skills as an independent and ensemble performer. Students are expected to work collaboratively with others in a practical context and also complete written work and meet specific deadlines.

Once in Year 10 students begin the GCSE course which has a new specification from September 2016. The new course is made up of three components, one that focuses on devising, one on performing a text and one that focuses on practical understanding of a performance text.

Throughout the course, students will develop a multitude of skills, including collaboration, communication and an understanding of how to amend and refine work in order to make a smooth transition in to their next level of study.

Career and Progression Opportunities

The specification provides an excellent foundation for candidates intending to pursue careers in teaching, coaching, or the health, leisure and fitness industry.

Link to Syllabus

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/drama-2016.html>

