



A-Level Drama and Theatre

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Criteria: Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Literature/Language.

Overview

The A-Level Drama and Theatre is a two-year linear qualification that combines practical creativity with theoretical understanding. Students engage in creating, performing, and analysing drama across a range of theatrical styles. The course includes three main components: **Drama and Theatre**, **Creating Original Drama**, and **Making Theatre**.

Component 1: Drama and Theatre (Written Exam)

Assessment: 3-hour written exam

Content:

- ▶ **Set Plays:** Study of two plays, one historical and one contemporary, from the perspectives of performer, designer, and director.
- ▶ **Live Theatre:** Analysis of a live production.

Exam Structure:

- ▶ **Section A:** Essay on how to bring a set play to life on stage.
- ▶ **Section B:** Analysis of an extract from another play, considering direction, performance, and design.
- ▶ **Section C:** Discussion of a live theatre production, evaluating creative collaboration.

Objective: Develop analytical skills and a deeper understanding of theatrical interpretation.

Component 2: Creating Original Drama (Practical)

Assessment: Devised performance and working notebook.

Content:

- ▶ **Devised Performance:** Create and perform an original piece of drama, influenced by a specific theatre practitioner.
- ▶ **Working Notebook:** Document creative processes, research, and development.

Objective: Encourage independent creativity and structured development of theatrical work.

Component 3: Making Theatre (Practical)

Assessment: Practical performance and reflective report

Content:

- ▶ **Practical Workshops:** Explore three key extracts from different plays, experimenting with various interpretations.
- ▶ **Final Performance:** Present one extract using techniques from a chosen theatre practitioner.
- ▶ **Reflective Report:** Evaluate interpretations and creative decisions made during the process.

Objective: Refine practical theatre-making skills and develop critical self-reflection.



Assessment Breakdown:

- ▶ **Component 1 (Drama and Theatre):** 40% (written exam)
- ▶ **Component 2 (Creating Original Drama):** 30% (coursework)
- ▶ **Component 3 (Making Theatre):** 30% (coursework)



Recommended Reading

Acting/Skills

1. The Actor and the Target by Declan Donnellan
2. The Warner Loughlin Technique by Warner Loughlin
3. The Frantic Assembly Book of Devising Theatre by Scott Graham

Practitioners/Genre

1. An Actor Prepares by Konstantin Stanislavski
2. Theatre of the Oppressed by Augusto Boal
3. Brecht on Theatre by Bertolt Brecht

Production Theatre Skills

1. Stage Design: A Practical Guide by Gary Thorne
2. The Assistant Lighting Designer's Toolkit by Anne E. McMills

Plays

1. Antigone by Sophocles
2. A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen
3. A Taste of Honey by Shelagh Delaney
4. Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett



Super-curricular resources

- ▶ **Live Theatre:** Attend productions at local theatres such as Progress Theatre (Reading), Reading Rep Theatre, and the Oxford Playhouse to experience different theatrical styles.
- ▶ **National Theatre Live:** Watch high-quality theatre productions broadcast to cinemas.
- ▶ **Workshops and Talks:** Participate in practitioner workshops at the National Theatre or explore online resources like Crash Course Theatre (YouTube) and Making It with Temi Wilkey (Podcast).



Career Progression

Direct Careers:

- ▶ Actor/Performer
- ▶ Director
- ▶ Playwright/Scriptwriter
- ▶ Stage Manager
- ▶ Theatre Technician (lighting, sound, set design)
- ▶ Drama Teacher or Educator

Supplemented Careers:

- ▶ Events Manager
- ▶ PR Specialist
- ▶ Journalist or Media Presenter
- ▶ Museum Curator
- ▶ HR or Talent Development Specialist

Transferable Skills:

- ▶ Communication (public speaking, articulation)
- ▶ Teamwork and Collaboration
- ▶ Creative Problem-Solving
- ▶ Critical Thinking
- ▶ Empathy and Emotional Intelligence
- ▶ Confidence and Leadership
- ▶ Time Management and Organisation