

DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

AQA AS level specification 1241

"There was never yet an uninteresting life. Such a thing is an impossibility. Inside of the dullest exterior there is a drama, a comedy, and a tragedy." Mark Twain

Unit	Unit Title	Duration	Mode of Assessment	Weighting at AS
1	Live Theatre production seen and prescribed	1 hour 30 minutes	Written examination	60%
2	Presentation of Extract from play	20-40 minutes	Practical examination - external examiner visit.	40%

The specification contains four areas of study. They are:

Interpretation of plays for performance,
The study of influential theatrical practitioners,
Live productions seen,
Pupils' own practical work

At AS level, the girls perform their interpretation of an extract from any of the numerous plays they will study. They study a set text and a range of theatrical practitioners. The work and ideas of Konstantin Stanislavski, Bertholt Brecht and Steven Berkoff will be explored both practically and theoretically, so that the girls can experience and apply this knowledge. Students will develop an appreciation of performance values and make detailed notes for examination purposes on a range of theatre trips to a variety of venues.

Subjects which complement Drama and Theatre Studies are English Literature, which promotes interpretive skills; Art, which offers opportunities for visual and spatial awareness; Music, where there are elements of performance and individual expression; Media Studies, which uses a number of similar structures; and Modern Languages which offer social and cultural context. History, theology and psychology are good companions to the political content of the course. By contrast, girls following more scientific courses might find the Drama and Theatre Studies course a welcome outlet for creativity and self expression.

The knowledge and understanding of social and cultural values is central to the study of drama at this level, as is the need to view all elements of the course from a performer, playwright and director's perspective.

Style of work:

Four practical sessions per week and tutorials help with written work once weekly. Two formal essays each half term.

DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

AQA A2 level specification 2241

"What is drama but life with the dull bits cut out."
Alfred Hitchcock

Unit	Unit Title	Duration	Mode of Assessment	Weighting at A2
3	Further prescribed plays including Pre twentieth century	2 hour written paper	Written examination	60%
4	Presentation of devised drama.	20-40 minutes	Practical examination	40%

The A2 level specification contains four main areas of study:

Practical and theoretical study of two further set texts
 Deepening understanding of the influence of practitioners on contemporary and historic theatre.
 Live productions seen
 Performance of a devised piece

At A2 level the girls stage a devised piece for the practical component of the course. This will be the students' opportunity to write, direct and produce an original stage play based on a text or idea of their choice. It is expected that the influences of practitioners and other playwrights will contribute to the piece. Students will study further set texts, answering questions on two specific texts in their written paper.

The A2 course should broaden and deepen the knowledge, skills and understanding acquired in the AS course and should also enable students to develop further appropriate production and performance techniques and to widen their experience of drama and theatre as a whole.

Style of work:

Tailored tutorials for written components once weekly, practical sessions where notes are taken.
 Three formal essays each half term.

