Year 8 Options 2020

GCSE Drama

Examination Board: WJEC

What is GCSE Drama all about?

GCSE Drama is a subject which offers a huge scope to develop you as a person. It is a practical subject which allows you to develop your skills in creativity and imagination. You will explore different set texts, styles of performance and theatre practitioners. You will develop your skills in voice, movement, communication and group rapport. It is a subject which develops your self-confidence, your ability to work in a team and meet deadlines. It is a subject which develops your leadership skills and your ability to work under pressure. You will learn how playwrights have studied society, human nature and politics.

Year 9

Students will be exposed to a variety of practitioners and theatrical styles in preparation for their formal assessments which begin in year 10. There will be workshops on Stanislavksi, Artaud and Brecht which will allow students to develop their performance skills and knowledge of Drama theory. They will also develop skills in devising theatre which will be modelled on Component 1 of the course. They will explore elements of technical theatre including lighting, set design and costume as well as developing their writing skills in preparation for Year 10. Workshops will be challenging, fun and engaging and will have a practical focus in their delivery.

Course Structure and Assessment:

Component 1: Devising Theatre
Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated, 40% of qualification
Students will be assessed on **either** acting **or** design.
Students participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre using **either** the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner **or** a genre, in response to a stimulus set by WJEC. Students must produce:
-a realisation of their piece of devised theatre
-a portfolio of supporting evidence
-an evaluation of the final performance or design.

Component 2: Performing from a Text
Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner 20% of qualification
Students will be assessed on **either** acting **or** design.
Students study **two** extracts from the **same** performance text chosen by the centre.
Students participate in **one** performance using sections of text from **both** extracts.

Component 3: Interpreting Theatre
Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 40% of qualification
Section A: Set Text
A series of questions on **one** set text from a choice of five:
1. ***The Tempest,*** William Shakespeare
2. ***The Caucasian Chalk Circle,*** Bertolt Brecht
3. ***Hard to Swallow,*** Mark Wheeller
4. ***War Horse,*** Michael Morpurgo, adapted by Nick Stafford
5. ***DNA,*** Dennis Kelly.

Section B: Live Theatre Review
One question, from a choice of two, requiring analysis and evaluation of a given aspect of a live theatre production seen during the course.

What could I do next with GCSE Drama?

Students take GCSE Drama for a variety of reasons. Many are interested in performing arts and want to develop their skills to a high standard. We are very proud of a proven track record of students who work professionally in theatre and television. Most students who take the course realise it offers them something different on their CV. It is a course which develops a broad range of skills that employers look for. We not only offer a strong practical course but also numerous extra curricular plays and projects which enhance any personal statement. After GCSE Drama, students can choose to take A Level Theatre Studies if they enjoy the course and want to pursue it further. The Creative Industries in this country are worth £100 billion pounds to the economy and employ over 2.8 million people so there are plenty of job opportunities for people who have a Drama qualification on their CV.