



Hartismere
College



Drama and Theatre

A STUDENT'S GUIDE TO THE A LEVEL IN DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

In order to study this subject, we expect students to have achieved a grade 5 or better in either English, English literature or a 5 grade in Drama if it has been studied for GCSE. Some students may be accepted with a grade 4 with their teacher's recommendation.

In the Drama and Theatre studies A level, students study plays from the point of view of a director, designer, performer and critic. Students will learn about and understand the language of drama and theatre as well as develop their performing and analytical skills.

What will I learn on this A level course?

This course is designed to provide a balance across a range of learning activities. Students explore plays, create theatre, perform plays, analyse theatre and critically evaluate all of these elements. Students completing the course successfully will have a thorough understanding of drama and theatre, well-honed analytical and creative skills and an ability to communicate effectively with others.

The core skills being developed in this qualification are:

- the ability to recognise and understand the interrelationship between performer, designer and director
- the understanding that texts and extracts studied may represent a range of social, historical and cultural contexts
- the ability to analyse and evaluate their work and the work of others
- the ability to understand how performance texts can be interpreted and performed

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to students who:

- have an interest in all aspects of drama and theatre arts
- have an enquiring mind, and enjoy learning through class discussions.
- enjoy reading plays and watching them in performance
- enjoy practical theatre arts such as improvisation and physical theatre
- want to keep their options open for further study; Drama complements a wide range of subjects. It goes well with English, history, psychology and the arts, as well as making a good 'fourth' subject for students of the sciences.
- want to study drama, theatre, acting, performing, language or literature

A level Drama & Theatre (Edexcel)

Written Examination 40%

The written exam requires students to:

- evaluate a live theatre performance they have seen at the theatre
- interpret an extract from two different plays; *Equus* by Peter Shaffer and *Woyzeck* by Georg Buchner, into a performance, from the point of view of a performer, director and designer.

Coursework 30%

The written coursework requires students to:

- analyse and evaluate their own practical work from an extract of a play; *Our Country's good*, in a typed portfolio of evidence between 2500–3000 words, assessed by the teacher.

Performance 30%

The performance aspect requires students to:

- undertake the practical exploration and a group performance of an extract from a play.
This performance is assessed by a visiting examiner.
- undertake the practical exploration and either a monologue or duologue performance from a different play.
This performance is assessed by a visiting examiner.
- undertake the practical exploration and performance of a devised piece assessed by the teacher.

LAMDA Performance Examinations

Hartismere school is a private centre for the LAMDA examinations (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art).

Pupils are given the opportunity to take part in performance examinations, arranged through the drama department. These examinations focus on students' vocal, physical and interpretive skills while they delve into characters and explore the background of dramatic texts. Alongside producing authentic performances of their chosen scenes, they also gain an understanding of the context and characters within them.

This enables pupils to further develop clear speaking and character portrayal to an understanding of a playwright's style, the influence of theatre practitioners such as Stanislavski and a sensitive appreciation of subtext, and provides additional support towards the skills required at A level.

Learners can take their exam in a solo, duologue and grade 6,7 and 8 qualifications award UCAS points.

What can I expect from my drama lessons?

Lessons are mainly practical, although you will be given workbooks and you will need to keep notes of the work you do in class for your course work. A file, notepad and pencil are essential at all lessons. You will be given the opportunity to develop your talents as an actor, designer, director and theatre critic.

Homework:

You will be expected to be able to research and download information from the internet, complete home study worksheets, learn lines, revise terminology, keep your notes up to date, contribute towards script-writing and prepare work for timed questions in preparation for answering exam questions

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