

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

Exam board: AQA

Assessment methods: Drama & Theatre (Written Paper) 40%, Creating Original Drama 30%, Making Theatre 30%

Length of exams: 3 hours

Breakdown of units

Component 1: Drama and theatre

The student are assessed on their knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre through the study of two set texts and the analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers. The students will sit one 3 hour exam at the end of the course, which is open book, and is 40% of the A Level.

Section A of the paper will ask one question from a choice on a set text such as 'A Servant to Two Masters' by Carlo Goldoni, a Commedia Dell'Arte play. This section is worth 25 marks. Section B the students will answer one three-part question on a given extract from the second of their set texts. This could be from a text such as 'The Glass Menagerie' by Tennessee Williams and this section is worth 30 marks. The final section is one question from a choice on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre. Throughout the course the students will be taken on a variety of theatre trips in preparation for this question. This section is worth 25 marks.

Component 2: Creating original drama

This is a practical component. The students are assessed on the process and performance of creating one piece of devised drama. The piece will be influenced by the work and methodologies of one theatre practitioner. The students will be responsible for the initial development from a stimulus, the research and practical exploration as well as the refinement of he final piece.

The students will produce a working notebook about the devising process and this is worth 40 marks. They also are assessed on the final performance which is worth 20 marks. This component is marked internally and moderated externally.

Component 3: Making theatre

This is the second practical unit. The students explore three extracts each taken from a different play. Each extract is explored practically and theoretically. The third extract must apply the work and methodologies of a different theatre practitioner and this extract is performed as a final assessed piece.

Students will produce a reflective report in which they are to analyse and evaluate the theatrical interpretation of all three extracts. The performance of the extract is worth 40 marks and the reflective report is worth 20 marks. This component is marked by visiting examiner.

Overlap with other subjects

Drama has some obvious overlaps with English Literature and Film Studies in regards to deconstructing texts. Creative students also engage well with the syllabus as it is a practical discipline

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