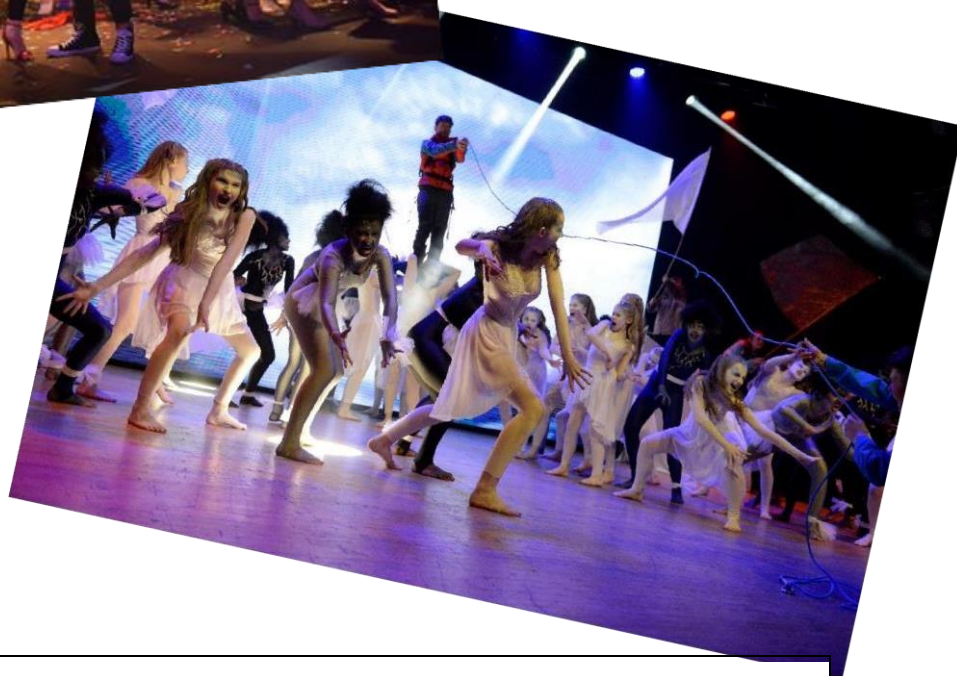


The Gryphon School

Sixth Form

Drama and Theatre A Level Handbook



Contents

- Course outline and how the course is assessed
- What you will learn studying Drama and Theatre
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Course outline and how the course is assessed

Component 1: Theatre Workshop
<i>Performance Exam and Coursework</i> <i>20% of the qualification</i> <i>60 marks</i>
Content overview ▪ Create a re-interpretation performance piece of an extract from a script. ▪ This will include the working methods and techniques of one theatre practitioner or Theatre Company. ▪ You will be provided with a range of choices of text (from a list given by Eduqas) and practitioner / Theatre Companies. ▪ Performer or designer routes are available.
Assessment overview ▪ AO1 and AO2 are assessed. ▪ Internally assessed and externally moderated. ▪ There are two parts to the assessment: 1. A portfolio (30 marks assessing AO1) ○ the portfolio submission recommendations are: - can be handwritten/typed evidence between 2500–3000 words - or - recorded/verbal (evidence between 12–14 minutes) - or - can be a combination of handwritten/typed evidence (between 1250–1500 words) and recorded/verbal evidence (between 6–7 minutes). 2. The devised performance/design realisation (30 marks assessing AO2).

Component 2: Text in Action

Performance Exam

40% of the qualification

120 marks

Content overview

- Create a **devised** performance using the working methods and techniques of **one chosen theatre practitioner / Theatre Company**.
- A group performance/design realisation of **one key extract** from a performance text in a **different style** to the devised performance.
- Write one **process and evaluation report** on **both pieces**.
- Performer or designer routes are available.
- Centre choice of performance texts.

Assessment overview

- AO1 and AO2 are assessed.
- Externally assessed by a visiting examiner.
- There are **four** parts to the assessment:
 1. Ability to create and develop ideas to communicate meaning as part of the theatre making process (10 marks (for both pieces) A01 assessed)
 2. Performance of the devised piece/design realisation (30 marks A02 assessed)
 3. Performance of an extract from a script/ design realisation (30 marks A02 assessed)
 4. Process and evaluation report for both performance pieces. The report has three sections and should be between 1300 and 1600 words. (40 marks A01 and A04 assessed)

Component 3: Text in Performance
Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes 40% of the qualification 120 marks
Content overview ▪ Practical exploration, study and interpretation of two set texts which are pre 1956 and modern/ contemporary plays. ▪ Practical exploration and study analysing how the text The Book of Dust can be performed in the theatre.
Assessment overview Section A: Pre 1956 Text OR Post 1956 text ▪ 40 marks, assessing AO3. ▪ Students answer a series of structured questions on an unseen specified extract from the chosen set text, either Pre 1956 or Post 1956. ▪ Students are allowed to bring in a clean copy of the script. Section B: Pre 1956 Text OR Post 1956 ▪ 40 marks, assessing AO3 and AO4. ▪ An essay question on the chosen set text as a whole from either the pre-1956 list or the post-1956 list demonstrating how the text can be adapted for a contemporary audience. ▪ Students are allowed to bring in a clean copy of the script. Section C: The Book of Dust ▪ 40 marks, assessing AO3 and AO4. ▪ Students will answer one question focused on an unseen specified extract of the text exploring how the text can be performed in the theatre.

Specification link: [AS and A Level Drama | Edugas](#)

What you will learn studying Drama and Theatre at Advanced Level

- Learn the skills of acting, directing and designing
- Become knowledgeable of all things theatrical
- Be able to critically evaluate and analyse productions and other forms of media presentation
- Be able to make perceptive links from productions watched to history or society nowadays
- Be able to work effectively as part of a team as well as independently
- Develop your imagination and creativity
- Become a confident and articulate person
- Be able to communicate effectively at all levels
- Develop important social, personal and cognitive skills
- Develop close working relationships with your fellow drama students

How the course is delivered:

- Practical exploration of the ideas and theories of theatre practitioners and theatre companies
- Practical exploration of stage interpretations of play texts
- Practical exploration of design techniques, setting and technical production methods
- Discussion forums
- Seminars
- Student presentations
- Theory in a classroom

Departmental expectations:

- You are expected to attend all lessons
- You are expected to complete regular written assignments
- Meet all deadlines on time
- You are expected to rehearse outside of lesson time
- Research material and relevant theory and text
- Read plays, plays and even more plays!
- Prepare seminars and presentations
- Visit the Theatre regularly
- Keep in touch with anything of theatrical relevance

Induction Tasks to Complete:

There are **3 Tasks** to complete for your Induction to the A Level course.

Read the information carefully to understand what is expected of you for each task.

Task 1: Acting Skills

TASK: You are to complete detailed research into what skills must an actor use when performing a role and answer the questions below.

Use the questions below as a basis to help structure/ guide your work:

1. What is the aim of an actor?
2. What should an actor do to prepare for a role?
3. What vocal skills can an actor use? *Describe each in detail.*
4. Why are these vocal skills essential?
5. What movement skills can an actor use? *Describe each in detail.*
6. Why are these movement skills essential?
7. What professional actor(s) inspire you and why?
8. How has this actor(s) used vocal/ movement skills in their performances? *Provide examples.*

Once you have answered these 8 questions, you must find a monologue/ scene of your choice from a published play.

9. What play is your monologue/ scene from?
10. What characters are present?
11. How would you use vocal and movement skills in a chosen monologue/ scene? *(You may choose to annotate the script instead or describe it - either is fine)*
12. Why would these skills be effective for your chosen role?

You **can present the information in any format you like** (essay, presentation, video etc) but the work must be your own, not copied and pasted!

This research is crucial for your performance exams as you must perform in 3 different pieces throughout the A Level course (if you choose acting). You will also be expected to answer questions focused on acting as specific roles within the written exam.

Task 2: Design Elements of Theatre

TASK: To complete detailed research into 3 design elements in theatre.

Options of Design Elements:

- Set Design and Props
- Lighting design
- Sound design
- Costume design
- Hair design
- Make-up design

Use the questions below as a basis to help structure/ guide your work:

1. What is the importance of the design element?
2. What does the design element aim to do?
3. Who is in charge of the design element? What do they have to consider when designing their aspect for the show?
4. What are the key elements of this design? (e.g. if lighting, what types of lights are there? What impact do they have? Etc).
5. Provide examples of professional productions where the design element has been used effectively and provide an explanation of how it was used.

You **can present the information in any format you like** (presentation, essay, video, poster etc) but the work must be your own, not copied and pasted!

This research is crucial for your written exam as you are expected to answer questions from not only an actor and director's perspective but also a designer.

Task 3: Theatre Practitioners and Companies

TASK: To complete detailed research into 3 of the following theatre practitioners/ companies.

Options of Practitioners/ Theatre Companies:

- Bertolt Brecht
- Steven Berkoff
- Antonin Artaud
- Samuel Beckett
- Frantic Assembly
- DV8
- Kneehigh
- Konstantin Stanislavski

Use the questions as a basis to help structure and guide your research. *Please note I do not want to know everything about their personal life – focus on their performance style.*

1. History about how they came into theatre
2. Information about their chosen style of performance including techniques they use.
3. When did they establish their practice?
4. What is their aim for their theatre?
5. How do they achieve this aim?
6. Who influenced them and how?
7. What shows have they produced? And where?
8. How did audiences react to their performance(s)?
9. What do/did their performances explore?
10. Have they influenced any other practitioners?
11. What impact have they had on theatre?
12. What books have they written/had written about them?

Your work can be presented in any format (video, essay, poster etc) but it must include detailed information and research (**minimum of 1000 words per practitioner**). **This must be in your own words, not copied and pasted!**

This research is crucial for your performance exams as you must perform or design in 3 different styles throughout the A Level course.

Any questions please contact Miss Gabbidon by the summer holidays on zoe.gabbidon@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk



The Drama department looks forward to seeing you in September!