

## A Level Drama and Theatre Studies

### Introduction:

The new Drama and Theatre Studies A level from Edexcel offers an exciting range of opportunities to approach drama and theatre studies as a practical, intellectual and artistic subject.

### What will I learn on this course?

There are 3 units which comprise the A level qualification enabling students to act as performers, critics and theatre makers throughout the course. Students explore a range of plays, practitioners and theatrical genres and styles to deepen their theatrical knowledge.

The first year is designed to enable students to acquire an understanding of the language and history of drama and theatre as well as allowing students to develop their performing and analytical skills. The first year culminates in the performance of an original piece of drama for an audience devised by students in small groups

The second year of course aims to extend the knowledge, skills and understanding acquired in the first year through the performance of key extracts from two plays in front of an external examiner and a written examination that focuses on the exploration of two plays from the perspective of a performer, designer and director.

Attending theatre productions is an important part of the Drama and Theatre Studies A Level.

### Summer Independent Learning tasks:

1. **Visit the library and look through the collection of books we have for A Level Drama and Theatre Studies.**
2. **Watch a theatre production and complete an 1000 word theatre review.**
3. **Complete a 6-8 slide powerpoint presentation about one of the following: Stanislavski's system, Brecht's Epic Theatre or Antonin Artaud's Theatre of Cruelty. Please include:**
  - A brief history of your chosen practitioner.
  - An explanation of the socio-political context your practitioner produced his work in.
  - A description of what theatre was like at the time.
  - A summary of some of the key features of their theatrical practice.
4. **Challenge task: Write a 500 word essay explaining the key differences between Stanislavski's System and Epic Theatre. Conclude your essay explaining which theatrical practice you prefer and why.**

### Guidance notes:

Task 2: Recommended theatres Young Vic, National Theatre, Donmar Warehouse, Old Vic, Unicorn Theatre and the Lyric Hammersmith but there are plenty more. If you are unable to attend a theatre, you can attend a cinema to watch a theatre production. You may also find some productions available on BBC iPlayer.

Task 3: Use one of the books in the library to support your research.