



OXFORD
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

Sixth Form study options

A Level Drama



The aim of this booklet is to introduce you to Drama and Theatre Studies A Level, providing an outline of the course and ensuring that you are aware of what to expect.

As a subject, Drama particularly complements other subjects such as English, Religious Studies, History, Politics, Mathematics, Geography and Psychology, though students opt for a wide range of subjects in combination with Drama. You do not need to have studied Drama GCSE to study Drama at A Level.

What skills will I learn on the course?

The general skills you will learn from the course include:

- An increase in vocal and physical and creative confidence
- The ability to identify and discuss appropriate theatre principles, terminology, theories and concepts.
- An ability to develop knowledge on all aspects of theatre
- The ability to examine a variety of materials appropriate to Theatre and Drama Studies and organise and present ideas in an appropriate manner.

What kind of student does this course suit?

This course will be of interest to you if:

- You want to evaluate, analyse and learn from live theatre
- You like working as a team, and working on challenges as a group
- You want to find out about theatre practitioners and build an understanding of the social, cultural and historical influences that have impacted upon the development of drama and theatre.
- You are excited to use Drama and Theatre Studies to build confidence as a life skill or to deepen your existing knowledge so far.

What is studied?

Over the two year course, the Edexcel specification covers three components.

Component one - Devising (40% of the qualification. 80 Marks):

Students will create an original devised performance in small groups. As a stimulus they will use one piece of original performance text, a choice of which is set by the board, and a chosen practitioner.

In addition, students will write a 3000 word portfolio, evidencing their journey through devising.

Component two – Text in performance (20% of the qualification. 60 marks)

Students will develop and demonstrate theatre making skills in this component, and explore how they realise artistic intentions in performance, through the study and performance of TWO separate performance texts provided by the board.

They will perform a monologue or duologue from one performance text, and a group performance of a key extract from a different performance text.



Component three – Written examination two and a half hours (40% of the qualification. 80 marks)

This component has three sections:

Section A – 20 marks. Students will answer one extended response question which requires them to analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance they have seen. They are permitted to bring in theatre evaluation notes of up to 500 words with them to the exam.

Section B - 36 marks. Students will answer two extended questions based on an unseen extract of a performance text they have studied. Students will demonstrate how, as both a performer and a designer, they intend to realise the extract in performance.

Section C – 24 marks. Students will answer one extended question using their chosen text, from a list provided by the exam board. They will demonstrate how their reimagined production concept will communicate the ideas to a contemporary audience. They will also outline how the work of their chosen practitioner has influenced their overall production concept as well as demonstrate awareness of the performance text in original performance conditions. Students are allowed to bring clean copies of the text into the exam, but no other printed material.

A Level
2019 devised
piece

www.stagework.org.uk

www.ideastap.com

Recent Drama students have gone on to study Drama at Exeter, Theatre Production at Central School of Drama and have attended national acting courses.

Co-curricular Drama in the Sixth Form

Covid-19 permitting, all senior students are offered the opportunity to perform in a musical in the autumn term. This is in collaboration with boys from other schools. In 2018, we produced **'Grease'**.

Independent sixth form plays

There is a wide range of Sixth Form Drama opportunities at Oxford High School, including the chance for Sixth Formers to produce, write, direct and perform in their own plays with the support of the Drama Department, Covid-19 permitting.

The experience widens their understanding of all production values and the process of producing their own work.

House drama

House Drama is a vital component of Oxford High School, providing an annual fun opportunity to work with all year groups in the school. As a House Leader, you may direct the younger years in a themed play, written and directed by yourselves.

Resources

Wider reading

Benedetti J – Stanislavski: An introduction
(Methuen Drama, 1982) ISBN: 9780413500304

Kohlhaas, K – The Monologue Audition
(Nick Hern books, 2000) ISBN 9781854596086

Websites

www.edexcel.com/gcedrama

www.nationaltheatre.org.uk

www.stagework.org.uk

DV8.co.uk

'Grease'
Senior School
Production
2018

