

Transition to A Level Drama



Raynes Park High School want students to have an inspiring experience of A-level Drama and Theatre.

The **AQA A-level Drama & Theatre studies** course allows you to become an independent theatre maker with the skills you need to go on to higher education, whether that is to study a course in drama and theatre or another subject.

This qualification emphasises practical creativity alongside research and theoretical understanding. You will learn through experience, seeing theatre and making theatre independently. You will be introduced to a wide range of theatrical styles and contexts as you explore plays practically, devise and work on performances. You will gain many invaluable skills, both theatrical and transferable, to expand your horizons.

Assessments

Component 1: Drama and Theatre

What's assessed

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
- Study of two set plays
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 3 hours
- Open book
- 80 marks
- 40% of A-level

Questions

- Section A: one question (from a choice) on one of the set plays from List A (25 marks)
- Section B: one three part question on a given extract from one of the set plays from List B (30 marks)
- Section C: one question (from a

Component 2: Creating original drama (practical)

What's assessed

- Process of creating devised drama
 - Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer, designer or director)
- Devised piece must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed practitioner

How it's assessed

- Working notebook (40 marks)
- Devised performance (20 marks)
- 60 marks in total
- 30% of A-level

This component is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

Component 3: Making theatre (practical)

What's assessed

- Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts (Extract 1, 2 and 3) each taken from a different play Methodology of a prescribed practitioner must be applied to Extract 3
- Extract 3 is to be performed as a final assessed piece (students may contribute as performer, designer or director)
- Reflective report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts

How it's assessed

- Performance of Extract 3 (40 marks)
- Reflective report (20 marks)
- 60 marks in total
- 30% of A-level

This component is marked by AQA.

Transition Tasks



CREATE



Story Telling: Create a table top drama where you retell one of the following short stories (you may wish to find your own) on your desk or even the kitchen table! Condense the story and use household items and any clothing that you may wish to use as costume to intrigue and entertain your audience.

This can be filmed on your phone or laptop, don't worry about the quality and we will share this work in our first lesson at the start of the course.

[A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings](#)

The Masque of the Red Death

The Lady, or the Tiger?



RESEARCH

Complete detailed research on 2 of the following practitioners/companies:

- Katie Mitchell
- Antonin Artaud
- Kneehigh Theatre Company
 - Punchdrunk
- Gecko Theatre Company

This research will be invaluable as you prepare for your performance exams and production concept. Your work can be presented in any format (multi-

media, PowerPoint, poster, hand-out, essay etc.) but must include really detailed research – it must be in your own words and not copy and pasted.

Use these questions as a basis to help structure and guide your research:

- History about how they came into the theatre
- Information about their chosen style of performance
- When did they establish their practice?
- What are their aims for their theatre?
- How do they achieve this?
- Who influenced them and how?
- What shows have they produced/directed/written, and when?
- How did audiences react to their work?
- What kind of material does their work explore?
- What do other practitioners say/think about them?
- Have they influenced other practitioners?
- What impact have they had on theatre?
- What books have they written or had written about them?
- What is their approach to actor training/rehearsals?



LIVE THEATRE REVIEW

Watch a theatrical performance (recorded) and write a 1000 word review focusing on use of movement or voice, and staging. You may wish to do extra research in order to support this.



PLAY READING

Read a play of your choice, this should be a new play and not something studied as part of your GCSE Drama or English courses. You need to be prepared to talk about this play in your first lesson in September.