



Edexcel Advanced GCE in Drama and Theatre (9DR0)

Component 1: Devising

In this component students will develop their creative and exploratory skills to devise an original performance. The starting point for this devising process will be a performance text and an influential theatre practitioner.

In their creative explorations, students will learn how text can be manipulated to communicate meaning to audiences and they will begin the process of interpretation. They will gain an understanding of how a new performance could be developed through the practical exploration of the theatrical style and use of conventions of the chosen practitioner.

Assessment: this component is internally assessed via coursework and is then externally moderated. It is worth 80 marks and is 40% of the overall mark of the qualification. There are two parts to the assessment: 20 marks awarded for practical performance and 60 marks awarded for a portfolio.

Component 2: Text in Performance

In this component students will develop and demonstrate theatre-making skills appropriate to their role as a performer. They will explore how they realise artistic intentions in performance. Currently, we focus purely on performance and do not offer the role of designer in this course.

The pupils produce two performances for assessment:

- 1) A group performance of one key extract from a performance text.
- 2) A monologue or duologue performance from one key extract from a different performance text.

Assessment: this component is externally assessed by a visiting examiner. It is worth 60 marks and is 20% of the overall mark of the qualification. All candidates are graded individually.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

Theatre is a collaborative art form and it is important that students have a clear understanding of how different creative ideas are put into practice. This component requires students to consider, analyse and evaluate how different theatre makers create impact and meaning. Throughout this component, students will consider how production ideas, meaning and dramatic elements are communicated to an audience from the perspective of a director, a performer and a designer.

Jane Austen College A Level Drama Handbook

Assessment through examination:

There is one exam at the end of the A-Level course. The exam is 2 hours and 30 minutes. The exam is divided into three sections:

Section A: Students will be given a thought-provoking statement about theatre. They will explore this statement with critical, and evaluative, references to their experience of a live performance.

Section B: Students will study one text. An extract of this text is given in the exam and the pupils answer one question about this extract in the role of a director and one question in the role of a performer.

Section C: Students will explore one set text in order to demonstrate how ideas for performance and production might be realised from page to stage. They are given one extended extract from this play in their exam and one essay question. They will consider the methodologies of their pre-selected practitioner and interpret this play in order to justify their own ideas for a production concept. Students will have researched the original performance conditions and gain an understanding of how social, historical and cultural contexts have informed their own decisions as theatre makers.

The examination assessment is worth 80 marks. It is worth 40% of the overall A-Level grade.

F.A.Q

Which practitioners will we study? The practitioners are always decided when we have got to know our new cohort of pupils, as certain practitioners really suit some performers - but not others. The practitioners available to study in Component 3 are Brecht, Artaud, Berkoff, Complicité, Kneehigh, Joan Littlewood, Punchdrunk or Stanislavski. In Component 1 we can select from the practitioners list above (the same practitioner must not be used twice) or from other established practitioners such as Frantic Assembly or Grotowski.

Which play texts will we study for the exam component? We have a free choice of the texts that we choose for Component 1 and Component 2. Over the last two years we have used *Road* by Jim Cartwright, *Things We Know To Be True* by Andrew Bovell, *Punk Rock* by Simon Stephens, *Faith Healer* by Brian Friel, *Psychosis 4.48* by Sarah Kane and *Closer* by Patrick Marber. For Component 3, we study *Accidental Death of An Anarchist* by Dario Fo and, depending on group preferences, *Lysistrata* by Aristophanes, *The Maids* by Jean Genet or *Dr Faustus* by Christopher Marlowe.

Who are the 'theatre makers' mentioned in the examination component? Lighting designer, set designer, costume designer, sound designer, director, actors - basically all the 'roles' that make a great theatre production possible.

How much of the overall final A-Level grade is awarded for my performance skills? 30%

Will we watch live theatre? Yes. Most definitely. Watching live theatre gives pupils a vision of what theatre makers can use and produce. This knowledge can be used to inform their written work and their practical performances. Live theatre productions we have recently watched are *Kite Runner*, *Hedda Garbra*, *Forced Entertainment* and *Wise Children*. We also watch digital copies of live shows that are no longer running on stage.

How will this A-Level serve me in my future? Students can progress from this qualification to: drama schools or university courses that relate directly to drama and theatre; university courses that will benefit from the skills acquired from this GCE, for example law, human resources, English literature, people management, teaching degrees; employment where people skills are essential, for example management, retail, nursing, industry and business environments; employment where time management, confidence, the ability to work collaboratively and to meet deadlines are desirable.