

GCE AS & A LEVEL
Student Guide
Performing Arts

For first teaching from September 2013

For first award of AS Level in Summer 2014
For first award of A Level in Summer 2015

performing
arts



Student Guide: Performing Arts

Performing Arts encompasses drama, dance, music and any genre that involves performing to an audience. Participating in performing arts, whether as a performer or in the more technical production aspects, will develop your self-confidence, self-awareness, personal discipline and creativity. Performing Arts is a collaborative discipline, involving teamwork and self-management. Employers look for these qualities in prospective employees.

Q. Why study Performing Arts?

Performing Arts is a growth industry in Northern Ireland. This qualification will give you opportunities to:

- research and gain insight into the industry;
- engage with effective practice; and
- prepare for employment, further training and/or study.

Q. What will I study and how will I be assessed?

There are four units in this course, two at AS and two at A2. The breakdown of the units is detailed in the tables which follow.

Unit	Areas of Study	Unit	Areas of Study
AS 1: Developing Skills and Repertoire 60% of AS Level 30% of A Level Available every Summer from 2014	You will choose and develop one discipline within either Performance or Production . You can select any one from: Performance Dance, Drama or Music Production Choreography, Design (Costume or Set), Direction, Musical Direction, Stage Management or Technical (Lighting or Sound) You will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • research two contrasting extracts of repertoire; • apply your chosen discipline in a performance context; • keep a record of your development in your chosen discipline; and • evaluate your performance and how to improve it. Internal Assessment You will produce a portfolio based on your chosen discipline, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a summary of research; • a skills audit; • a record of work; and • a risk assessment. You will also produce a recording of your performances or presentations, and an evaluation. Your teacher will mark the work and CCEA will moderate his or her marking.	AS 2: Planning and Realising a Performing Arts Event 40% of AS Level 20% of A Level Available in the Summer series from 2014	You will continue to work in your chosen discipline. As a member of a group, you will respond to a pre-release stimulus paper that we issue in the September of your AS year of study. You will interpret the stimulus and, in a group of 2–9 students, create a performing arts event. This will last between 10 and 40 minutes, depending on the size of your group. External Assessment A CCEA examiner will mark your performance. Although you perform as a group, the examiner will mark each candidate as an individual. Production students will give a presentation to the examiner as well as carrying out their role during the performance. You will also produce a supporting document under controlled conditions. Time: a maximum of two hours Word limit: Section 1 – 600 words Section 2 – 1200 words Section 3 – 600 words This will be submitted to CCEA in advance of your performance/ presentation.

Unit	Areas of Study	Unit	Areas of Study
A2 1: Planning for Employment 60% of A2 30% of A Level Available in the Summer series from 2015	You will learn about the employment opportunities available in the Performing Arts industry and produce a written report as evidence of your research. You will create an employment plan. You will also develop materials such as a CV and a promotional portfolio to help you to find work in your chosen discipline. Performance students will prepare for and participate in an audition and interview . They will perform two contrasting pieces. Production students will prepare a presentation that demonstrates their skills in two contrasting productions. They will also participate in an interview . The audition or presentation and interview will be recorded and last between 10 and 15 minutes. Internal Assessment You will produce a record of work including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a written report in three sections; • a promotional portfolio; • a recording of your audition/ presentation and interview; and • an evaluation. Your teacher will mark the work and CCEA will moderate his/her marking.	A2 2: Performing to a Commission Brief 40% of A2 20% of A Level Available in the Summer series from 2015	You and your fellow students will form a production company and realise a performing arts event in response to a commission brief set by CCEA in the September of your A2 year of study. As well as participating in the actual performance, each member of the group will have a role to play in making the event happen. The administrative roles you can choose from are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • front of house; • health and safety officer; • budget and finance; • education officer; • press officer; or • publicity officer. Your group will consist of between 2 and 6 members. You will participate in the performing arts event which will last between 15 and 40 minutes, depending on the group size. External Assessment A CCEA examiner will be present and will mark your performance. Although you perform as a group, each candidate will be marked as an individual. In response to the commission brief you will produce a record of work which will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a research report; • a summary of findings; • evidence of tasks completed; and • an evaluation. The evaluation will be produced under controlled conditions. Time: a maximum of 45 minutes Word limit: 600 words

Q. What can I do with a qualification in Performing Arts?

This GCE course provides a solid foundation for progression to further study, training or employment in the performing arts industry. Qualifications in performing arts can lead to employment in areas such as dance, drama, music, theatre, film, television, puppetry, costume design, set design, direction, sound engineering, lighting, make-up or special effects. The course will also provide you with creative skills valued by many employers.

performing arts



How can I find out more?

There are a number of ways that you can find out more about studying Performing Arts:

- Teachers at your school or college
- Students who have already studied this subject
- Careers adviser
- UCAS (www.ucas.com) or CAO (www.cao.ie) for details on entry requirements for university courses

To view the full specification and the full range of support material available for GCE Performing Arts, please visit the microsite (www.ccea.org.uk/performing_arts)

