



Rewarding Learning

GCSE Drama

STUDENT
GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

The GCSE Drama specification allows you to develop your knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to drama. You will be expected to engage actively in the process of dramatic study and to work closely with other students in your group to create, develop and realise your performances.

You can choose between two pathways for your performances – acting or design.

You will also study a set text and complete a written examination based on this.

WHY STUDY DRAMA?

- You will have a choice of **two** pathways – performing (acting) **or** design (costume, lighting, multimedia, set or sound).
- You will have an opportunity, as part of a group, to devise your own performance.
- You will also, as part of a group, investigate, create and develop a scripted performance (based on an existing script).



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

COMPONENT	AREAS OF STUDY
Component 1: Devised Performance	<p>You will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• work in groups to devise a performance;• research style, genre, professional practice and the work of theatre practitioners to inform your outcome;• decide on a target audience;• rehearse and prepare for the performance;• contribute to the final performance, according to your chosen pathway (acting or design); and• produce a student log at the end of the process, in which you record a summary analysis and evaluation of your work and the work of others.
Component 2: Scripted Performance	<p>You will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• work with your group to select, edit and shape a script to perform;• research style, genre, professional practice, materials and/or equipment;• create a theatrical interpretation or design concept that has meaning for an audience;• rehearse and prepare for the performance; and• contribute to the final performance, according to your chosen pathway (acting or design).
Component 3: Knowledge and Understanding of Drama	<p>You will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• study one of the following set texts:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>;– <i>Juno and the Paycock</i>;– <i>The Crucible</i>;– <i>Philadelphia, Here I Come!</i>;– <i>Tea in a China Cup</i>;– <i>Blood Brothers</i>;– <i>Across the Barricades</i>; or– <i>Sparkleshark</i>;• develop understanding of the text and elements such as the use of language, style and genre;• consider context, production and design; and• analyse and evaluate your own work and the work of others, for example analyse a live or recorded theatre event.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Component 1: Devised Performance	Controlled assessment 30 hours Devise and act (for at least 5 minutes) in a group performance or Devise, present and realise your design concept in a group performance (30 marks)	15%
	Complete a student log (20 marks) Teachers mark the task and we moderate the results.	10% Total: 25%
Component 2: Scripted Performance	Controlled assessment 42 hours Select and interpret a published play script Act in a group performance or Present and realise your design concept in a group performance (60 marks) Teachers mark the task and we moderate the results.	35%
Component 3: Knowledge and Understanding of Drama	External written examination 1 hour 30 minutes You answer three questions using one set text. (You can bring an unmarked copy of the set text into the examination.)	40%



Component 1
Devised Performance

25%



Component 2
Scripted Performance

35%



Component 3
Knowledge and Understanding of Drama

40%

WHAT CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS, THINKING SKILLS AND PERSONAL CAPABILITIES WILL I DEVELOP?



CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS AT KEY STAGE 4 COMMUNICATION, USING MATHEMATICS AND USING ICT

You will have opportunities to develop these skills in a variety of ways, for example:

- presenting your work to an audience through the devised and scripted performances and in your responses to questions in the written examination;
- (design students) understanding intensity levels of lighting and sound; and
- researching the set text and selected materials for the devised and scripted performances.

THINKING SKILLS AND PERSONAL CAPABILITIES AT KEY STAGE 4 SELF-MANAGEMENT, WORKING WITH OTHERS AND PROBLEM SOLVING

You will be encouraged to, for example:

- produce your own student log for Component 1;
- work together for a collective goal such as group rehearsals and performances; and
- justify your performance and design ideas for the set text in the written examination.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN DRAMA?

This course gives you the opportunity to explore a range of practical, creative, analytical and performance skills. The majority of careers and further study pathways increasingly require the range of skills developed through the qualification: presentation, collaboration, confidence, evaluation and innovation. Studying GCSE Drama can lead to further study in the performing arts, a career in acting or design, or a wide variety of other careers that use the skills described above. The creative arts is a healthy and growing sector in Northern Ireland and GCSE Drama is a very relevant qualification.

