

# Theatre Studies

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Creativity: It's been maligned, neglected, and misunderstood – how many times have you heard art, music or drama being called 'soft subjects'...interestingly English was called a soft subject not long ago

It's partly because people associate creativity with being totally free and unstructured. But what we really have to get hold of is the idea that you can't be creative if you don't *do* something. GCSE will have already taught you how productive you have to be to produce something of any worth – compare your model books to notes taken in other subjects: my estimation is that you will be producing far more original work in drama than the other subjects.

BUT creativity it is *the* crucial 21st century skill we'll need to solve today's pressing problems. Everyone you are competing with for a place at University or in your dream job will all have an impressive clutch of GCSEs and A levels...how are you going to set yourself apart? How are you going to stand out? – GAIN SKILLS THEY DON'T HAVE!!

Theatre studies gives you the opportunity to work with others, to collaborate, to compromise, to listen, to lead, to follow your peers – tell me a job that won't require these skills.

- **Examinations Board** – OCR
  - **The Set Texts**
    - *Equus* by Peter Shaffer
    - *Frankenstein* by Nick Dear
    - *Othello* by Shakespeare
    - *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* by Patrick Quentin/Stephen Sondheim
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- **Content of the A Level Course**
  - **Practitioners in Practice (40%)**
    - Section 1
      - Students explore practically the work of theatre practitioners and use the skills gained to explore text and create devised theatre. They are required to practically explore two practitioners and an extract from a performance text (*Equus*)
      - Students will then complete a research report.
    - Section 2
      - Students create a devised performance influenced by their exploration of the work of others from Section 1.
      - In this section students will complete a portfolio of evidence of the practical work they have created and developed during the devising process. This will include analysis and evaluation of their own work.
    - Section 3
      - Students perform the final polished devised piece of drama for an audience.
      - This section requires learners to create and develop ideas to communicate meaning, gaining an understanding of the skill set needed to work on a role for performance.

- **Exploring and Performing Texts (20%)**
  - The aim of this component is to use acting skills to communicate the meaning in a performance text to an audience.
  - Learners are required to study one performance text in its entirety and work collaboratively to perform part of the text.
  - Centre choice of performance texts.
  - Learners will choose to specialise in either performance or design.
  
- **Deconstructing Texts for Performance (20%)**
  - Learners will explore the creative possibilities of staging the chosen performance text (*Sweeney Todd*). This component is assessed through a written exam but preparation must consist of practical study. Learners are required to explore the performance text practically through the role of the director. Learners will deconstruct the text and explore how any of its scenes can be staged and performed for an audience. Learners will analyse and interpret the performance text in depth. Students will interpret and explore practically a performance text considering how to create, develop and direct a performance for an audience.
  
- **Analysing Performance (20%)**
  - Section A enables learners to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how extracts from the chosen texts can be rehearsed and interpreted in performance, showing an awareness of characterisation, performance style, genre and context. (*Othello & Frankenstein*)
  - Section B allows learners to analyse and evaluate live theatre.

### **Assessment Overview for both years of the examination**

- **The Devised Project (year 1)**
  - *Internally assessed and externally moderated.*
  - *40% of the qualification*
  - *120 marks*
- **The Practical Performance (year 2)**
  - *Externally Assessed by a visiting examiner*
  - *20% of the qualification*
  - *60 marks*
- **The Written Papers (year 2)**
  - *Externally assessed*
  - Analysing Performance (2 hrs 15)
    - *20% of the qualification*
    - *60 marks*
  - Deconstructing Texts for Performance (1 hr 45)
    - *20% of the qualification*
    - *60 marks*
  
- **Entry requirements to study Theatre Studies**
  - Drama GCSE 8 and above