

DRAMA & THEATRE

Subject title	A - Level Drama & Theatre
Exam board	Edexcel
Specification number	9DR0
Time allowance per fortnight	9 hours

You are an ideal student if you are energetic, enthusiastic, resilient, have a passion for performing, love working with other people and, like to go to the theatre. This course combines the study of practical theatre with its history. This syllabus has been developed to enable students to explore a range of practitioners and texts and furnish them with communication, leadership and creative skills vital for success in the 21st century.

COURSE CONTENT

Component 1

Devising

Assessment: Coursework 40% (80 marks)

Internally assessed and externally moderated.

Content overview

1. Explore a performance text in light of a practitioner.
2. Devise and perform a piece of theatre
3. Record your exploration process in a portfolio. (2500-3000 words)

We expect **you** to have a general understanding of Stanislavski and Brecht before embarking on the course. This could be achieved by reading over the summer or would already have been covered in GCSE Drama at Malmesbury School. We then explore other practitioners such as Artaud, Berkoff, Mitchell, Meyerhold and Frantic Assembly to further your knowledge and inspire your own work.

The texts we select are diverse to reflect the contemporary socio-political climate and **your** collective interests. Recently we have studied: Metamorphosis (Berkoff), A Doll's House (Ibsen), Pink Mist (Sheers), People, Places and Things (Macmillan)

• What do you have to do?

Having read the text we select an extract from which to work. Then we workshop and research the key themes that emerge. Next we decide on a practitioner to use and study their performance style and practices. We incorporate this into the workshopping of ideas and then **you** devise, stage, rehearse and produce a piece of original theatre that has been inspired by the stimulus.

Throughout the devising and rehearsal process **you** must analyse and reflect on **your** creative choices and ultimately produce a 3000 word portfolio.

Component 2

Text in Performance

Assessment: Coursework 20% (60 marks).

Externally assessed

Content overview:

- 1) A **monologue or a duologue performance** from one key extract from one performance text. (24 marks)
- 2) A **group performance** of one key extract from a different performance text. (36 marks).

Monologues/duologues - selected by **you** with advice from us. They must come from an existing, published play script but can be contemporary or classic.

Group performance – selected by us to play to **your** strengths with input from **you**.

- **What do you have to do?**

Monologues/Duologues: Read a selection of monologues/plays that play to **your** strengths, interest **you** and/or challenge **you**. Rehearse the monologue considering **your** concept, staging and characterisation.

Monologues/plays that have been performed previously include:

Pink Mist, A Streetcar Named Desire, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Educating Rita, Equus, Road, A View from The Bridge, An Ideal Husband and The Importance of Being Ernest.

Plays performed previously: Private Peaceful, Private Lives, Agnes of God, Dancing At Lughnasa, Absurd Person Singular, The Importance of Being Ernest, Yerma, Dracula and The Virtuous Burglar, Enron, Private Lives

Component 3

Theatre Makers in Practice

Assessment: 2 ½ hour written examination 40% (80 marks)

Externally assessed

Theatre is a collaborative art form and it is important that **you** have a clear understanding of how different creative ideas are put together to create Theatre.

- **What do you have to do?**

You must consider, analyse and evaluate how different theatre makers create impact.

You will identify how production ideas and dramatic elements are communicated to an audience from the perspective of a director, a performer and a designer.

You will critically analyse and evaluate **your** experience of live performances.

As an informed member of the audience **you** will deconstruct theatrical elements which will help inform **your** own production choices and develop **your** own ideas as potential theatre makers.

You will practically explore texts in order to demonstrate how ideas for performance and production might be realised from page to stage.

You will also consider the methodologies of practitioners and interpret texts in order to justify **your** own ideas for a production concept.

You will research the original performance conditions and gain an understanding of how social, historical and cultural contexts have informed **your** decisions as theatre makers.

There may be an opportunity to perform one of the texts in its entirety in Y12 (Colder Than Here was performed last year).

Content:

- 1) A live theatre evaluation. (Previous performances seen include – Pygmalion, A Curious Incident of The Dog In The Night-time, An Ideal Husband, The Magistrate, The Cherry Orchard, A View from The Bridge.)
- 2) Page to stage: realisation of one key extract from a performance text. (Machinal – Sophie Treadwell, Colder Than Here – Laura Wade)
- 3) Interpreting one complete performance text, in light of one practitioner for a contemporary audience. (Dr Faustus – Marlowe, Heda Gabler – Ibsen, The Maids – Genet)

Examination performances take place in the evening to invited audiences. Leading up to these **you** will also rehearse after school.

If you have any questions please speak to Mrs Calland or Miss Edwards.