

Course Title: GCSE Drama

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Further information available from: Mrs Barnes (abarnes@ramseyacademy.com)

Why study Drama?

GCSE Drama is about understanding the literature and skills of theatre as an art form. It explores what it is like to put yourself in somebody else's shoes and human situations. The course encourages students to work imaginatively and creatively in a collaborative context when responding to, developing and communicating ideas. Students will have the opportunity to create their own performance work as well as explore work written by others. Drama enables students to build confidence and communication skills in a creative environment.

Course Outline

The GCSE Drama course has three components:

- **Component 1: Devising**
- **Component 2: Performance from Text**
- **Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice**

Component 1: Devising Practical Performance and Written OR Video/Audio Recorded Coursework 40%	Students devise their own piece of theatre which they then perform. They will record the process in a portfolio.	Internally assessed Externally moderated
Component 2: Performance from Text Practical Performance Exam 20%	Performance of two extracts from a play text – this can be in the form of 2 monologues, 2 duologues, 2 group extracts or a combination of these options.	Externally assessed by a visiting examiner
Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice Written Exam 40%	Choice of one set text from eight. This will be explored practically and then written about. Evaluation of a piece of live theatre they have seen.	Exam: 1 hour 30 min. Sec A: Questions on a set play text Sec B: Live Theatre Evaluation

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/drama-2016.html>

Assessment Format

Edexcel (1-9) Drama 1DR0

GCSE Drama consists of practical performance (internal and external assessment), written or recorded coursework portfolio and a final written examination as outlined above.



What skills will I need to be successful in this subject?

Most lessons are **practically based**, learning about different styles of theatre, exploring play texts and creating performances. However, students are required to complete **written notes about the plays** they are studying **and create a portfolio of ideas** for their devised work. **This is an essential part of the course** and provides the basis for formal written assessments and the exam.

You will need to be open-minded, self-critical, willing to work with others to build your creativity and confidence and be prepared to let your emotions show through physical and powerful expression.

Possible Careers and Future Education

Drama is a subject that prepares you for working life in ALL careers. It contains aspects of history, philosophy, English literature, art, RE, social and political knowledge and develops your ability to be independent. The world of Performing Arts itself is big business these days however and the industry is the largest employer in the country. When you consider how much time people spend watching films and television, listening to music, visiting the theatre or live shows and entertainment of different kinds, following vloggers and bloggers, making use of entertainments reps on holidays and being enticed by lively advertising, it is easy to see how important an understanding of the arts has become.

Of course, there are careers acting, dance, singing, musical theatre, television presenting and in all forms of “on-stage or screen” work but drama skills provide the basis of requirements for a huge range of employment. Behind the scenes there are careers in technical and backstage teams (Lighting, Sound and Stage Management), Venue Management, Holiday Reps, Researchers, Studio Managers, Writers, Camera Operators, Agency Administrators, Costume Managers, Advertising Planners, Arts Education and Teaching, Leisure and Tourism Operators, Workshop Companies, Personal Life Skills and Speech Coaches and Team Building Facilitators.

Personal skills that are developed in drama include:

- confidence.
- self-presentation.
- teamwork and collaboration.
- time management and organisational skills.
- self-awareness.
- self-discipline.
- an open mind and the ability to move beyond boundaries and experiment with different ideas.
- communication skills.
- analytical, critical and research skills.
- the ability to cope with criticism and learn from it.
- stamina.

These skills are highly prized in all worlds of work and in fact, many people with the strong personal and communication skills encouraged in drama end up in more unexpected careers such as NHS Management, Local Government and Journalism.

