

## Why study Drama and Theatre?

The WJEC A level in Drama and Theatre is an exciting and inspiring course which prepares learners for further study in Higher Education and/or preparation for future employment. This highly practical specification provides learners with the opportunity to work as either performers and/or designers on three different performances. In Unit 1 learners reinterpret a text to create a piece of theatre which is a combination of the selected text and original ideas. In Unit 3 learners engage with a stimulus to create two pieces of theatre in different styles; one interpretation of a text of their own choice and the other a devised piece. Both Units 1 and 3 are designed to encourage learners to make connections between dramatic theory and their own practice. While preparing their practical work, learners will explore the work of two theatre practitioners (individuals or companies) of their own choice and then apply their research to their performances or designs. In Units 2 and 4, learners explore three complete performance texts.

## What will this involve?

### **AS (2 units) AS Unit 1:**

Theatre Workshop Non-exam assessment: internally assessed 24% of qualification

Learners will be assessed on either acting or design. Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of theatre based on a reinterpretation of an extract from a text chosen from a list supplied by WJEC.. Learners must produce: a realisation of the performance, a creative log and an evaluation.

AS Unit 2: Text in Theatre Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 16% of qualification. Open book: Clean copies (no annotation) of the complete text chosen must be taken into the examination. A series of questions based on one performance text- A View from the Bridge, Arthur Miller

A2 Unit 3: Text in Action- Externally assessed by a visiting examiner 36% of qualification. Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of two pieces of theatre based on a stimulus supplied by WJEC: a devised piece using the techniques and working methods of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company. Learners must produce a process and evaluation report within one week of completion of the practical work.

A2 Unit 4: Text in Performance Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes 24% of qualification. Open book: Clean copies (no annotation) of the two complete texts chosen must be taken into the examination. Two questions, based on two different texts from the following list: A Day in the Death of Joe Egg, Peter Nichols Sweeney Todd, Stephen Sondheim

No prior learning and experience in Drama is required. However, the specification is designed to allow candidates to progress and build on subject and knowledge skills previously experienced in Key Stage 3 and GCSE Drama.

The course will enable candidates to further develop their ability to reflect on and evaluate their own work and the influence of playwrights/practitioners.

Their knowledge, understanding and skills will be enhanced by practical and theoretical components in research and performance.

### **Where do I go from here?**

Drama and theatre is a very desirable qualification for students who want to study any subject at University or college level. Educators understand that studying Drama and Theatre requires high levels of self-discipline to rehearse and refine performances. Performers generally possess advanced social, communication and interpersonal skills as they are used to working with other performers in a group setting.