



Wath Sixth Form Subject Preparation Pack

DRAMA

World-class learning

World-class learning every lesson, every day

The highest expectations

Everyone can be successful; always expect the highest standards

No excuses

Create solutions not excuses; make positive thinking a habit

Growth mindset

Believe you can improve; work hard and value feedback

Never give up

Resilience is essential; be relentless in the pursuit of excellence

Everyone is valued

Diversity is celebrated; see the best in everyone

Integrity

Be trustworthy and honest; deliver on promises and walk the talk

A Level Drama Transition Pack

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What is Drama?

This is a course for those who wish to develop their skills in Drama through studying dramatic texts, studying a range of dramatic practitioner's styles, devising Drama, analysing and evaluating live theatre. During the course you will develop skills in; acting, lighting, set design, costume, sound and make-up. There will be a number of theatre visits organised which you will review and you will experience what it is like to be part of a professional theatre company when creating and performing the "Murder Mystery" production. You will explore a range of different acting styles and develop your abilities as an actor/actress, along with the academic study of a range of texts. The course is approached very practically and gives you lots of performance opportunities, however there is an academic written element that runs throughout.

Why should I study Drama?

Drama is a useful subject to study as it involves an increased understanding of people and, in a world where we interact with hundreds of others on a daily basis, the benefits of this are limitless. Additionally, at A Level, it develops a number of transferable skills that will benefit your study of other A Levels, a future university course and future employment. These include but are not limited to:

- Working as part of a team
- Confidence building
- Presentation
- Understanding the needs of others
- Time management
- Decision making
- Empathy
- Critical thinking skills
- Analytical and evaluative
- Creativity

What careers could Drama lead to?

Due to the nature of the subject – understanding people, analysing creating and evaluating performance – and the many transferable skills Drama offers there is a wide range of careers that our previous students have gone into such as:

- Nursing
- Police
- Retail
- Marketing
- Social Work
- Media/Journalism
- Teacher

- Acting
- Customer Service
- Film work
- Entertainer
- Law
- DJ

What will I study?

At Wath Academy we study the EDUQAS Drama syllabus which covers a breadth of knowledge split across 3 components.

Component 1

Theatre workshop

Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated. 20% of qualification

You will participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of theatre based on a *reinterpretation* of an extract from a text. The piece must be developed using the techniques and working methods of **either** an influential theatre practitioner **or** a recognised theatre company. We usually focus on Brecht for this component.

You will produce:

- A performance
- A creative log

We aim to complete this component by the end of Year 12.

Component 2

Text in Action

Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner 40% of qualification

You will participate in the creation, development and performance of two pieces of theatre based on a stimulus supplied by EDQUAS:

1. a **devised** piece using the techniques and working methods of **either** an influential theatre practitioner **or** a recognised theatre company (a different practitioner or company to that chosen for Component 1)
2. an **extract from a text** in a different style of your choice.

You must perform both pieces live for the visiting examiner. In March of Y 13.

You will produce a process and evaluation report within **one** week of completion of the practical work.

Component 3

Text in Performance

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes 40% of qualification.

This is the year 13 summer exam. However, we work on elements of this paper throughout the whole course.

Sections A and B

Open book: Clean copies (no annotation) of the **two** complete texts must be taken into the examination.

Two questions, based on **two** different texts, written pre-1956 and post 1956.

Pre-1956: *Machinal*, Sophie Treadwell

Post-1956: *Saved*, Edward Bond
Section C

Closed book: The extract of text required for answering the questions will be printed on the examination paper.

A question based on a specified **extract** from:

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time,

Mark Haddon, adapted by Simon Stephens

Details of the 10-15 minute extract will be released during the first week of March, in the year in which the examination is to be taken.

How will I be assessed?

Drama is in a relatively unique position in this area as assessment takes place over the course. The component 1 performance and creative log is worth 20% of the A level and is internally assessed, filmed and then externally moderated. It takes place at the end of year 12. Component 2 is worth 40% of the A level and is marked by a visiting examiner in the March of year 13. Component 3 is the written exam and is worth 40% of the A level. The theory

covered in this component underpins the knowledge required for the other 2 components so we work on this throughout the course and carry out regular assessments in this area.

Meet the staff.

In Drama we have 2 full time members of staff along with a number of staff working in KS3.

Mr McHale is the Head of Drama.

I love teaching Drama because of the endless possibilities. Particularly with devising and script work where the answer lies in your own exploration, imagination and creativity which keeps everything really fresh. I love the fact that we explore so many transferable skills in every lesson such as teamwork, communication, time management and obviously confidence building. Speaking to past students can be so rewarding to hear how Drama has helped them develop and succeed in their lives after school. One student said that her studies in Drama had played a huge part in helping her to deal with her anxiety and how she developed "life lessons to push myself out of my comfort zone". I am passionate about Drama and theatre studies, so much so that I still like to keep up my own professional development by working with a local reparatory theatre company.

Miss Clarke

I was inspired to teach by my Drama teacher who's lessons I would look forward to every week and who helped me develop so much confidence. I have always loved performing since I was little always singing, acting and auditioning for every school production. I love exploring different theatre practitioners and their diverse styles. I am also passionate about watching theatre, particularly musicals. I think Drama is so important because it allows you to work on communication, trust, listening and empathising whilst working on performance skills. Teaching Drama is so rewarding. I can't think of a better career.

Recommended resources

Saved by Edward Bond, Machinal by Sophie Treadwell and The Curious incident of the dog in the night-time Play script



These are the plays that we study across the course. You may wish to purchase your own copies to help with revision notes, however, this is not essential.

If you have not studied Drama at GCSE or as means of consolidating your learning, we highly recommend that you visit the websites below and work through them.

Drama Bitesize

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zdb6xyc> This website covers most things that are on the EDQUAS GCSE specification.

Eduqas website

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/drama-and-theatre/as-a-level/> This is the Eduqas website. You can find the full specification here.

An introduction to Brecht

<https://www.dramaclasses.biz/bertolt-brecht-techniques-and-facts> It is helpful if you have a basic knowledge of Brecht and how his work differs from Stanislavski's

An introduction to Stanislavski

<https://www.dramaclasses.biz/the-stanislavski-system>

Additional resources

We recommend that you watch as much theatre as possible. We do work alongside Sheffield theatres in offering the IGNITE scheme which allows you to access excellent deals for Sheffield produced productions at the Crucible.

It is useful to read widely. We find that this really helps students with their creativity when devising.

There's a whole range of live performances that can be seen for free on YouTube.

You can access previous A level and GCSE performances on our Stream service once you are on the course.



The transition from GCSE to A LEVEL tasks

Aim: The aim of these tasks is to develop your understanding of key dramatic terminology and ideas to ease the transition into the study of a new subject at A Level standard. If you have not studied Drama before it can be quite daunting when presented with this new terminology, especially when surrounded by GCSE students who may already be fluent in Drama specialist terminology. By completing the tasks below, you will consolidate or develop knowledge of important content which will inevitably aid your understanding of the course over the next term.

Key terms

Define each of the key words below (in relation to Drama, not their general definition)

If you are struggling with any use the websites above to help you.

Key word	Definition
Tone of voice	
Practitioner	
Gesture	
Movement	
Down stage left	
Cyclorama	
Back drop	
Costume	
Set	
Props	
Interaction	
Naturalistic	
Atmosphere	

Motivation	
Monologue	
Dialogue	
Volume	
Pace	
Evaluating theatre	
Stage directions	
Exit/Entrance	
Audience.	

Practitioners

Write a brief summary of the intentions of the following practitioner's style.

Stanislavski

Brecht

The 4 different stage types.

In each box draw a ground plan of the stage. Include audience position, entrances and exits.

Proscenium Arch



Thrust



In the round

Traverse