



Drama

*“Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere.
The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination.”*
- Albert Einstein

Exam Board: Edexcel

Drama gives pupils a range of skills that cannot be undervalued. So-called soft skills that make us eminently more employable. What use are a fistful of A*s if you are unable to make eye contact during a limp handshake, or sell a concept, product, counter argument, closing argument or proposal in the Commons with clarity and confidence?

Those who participate in the dramatic process develop an emotional intelligence that should not be overlooked, and they develop transferable skills which are of immense value in every single area of their lives. Communication, leadership, group work, problem-solving and presentation skills are fundamental in most current careers.

Why do we offer Drama at LAS?

Not only does Drama develop a balanced intellect, it is part of an excellent platform for training in life. Taken in collaboration with a range of other subjects, Drama actively inspires pupils to grow into outgoing and confident adults. The course develops the ability to work within a group and, above all, it hones those techniques that allow a chosen few to present themselves confidently to an audience. The course is demanding and academically rigorous, allowing the pupils to develop skills that have huge benefits to them as individuals in all aspects of their studies and life beyond.

What is GCSE Drama?

It is an essentially practical course which aims to introduce pupils to all aspects of Drama and the Theatre, as performers, directors, designers and critics. It focuses on practical work that reflects 21st century theatre practice and developing skills that support progression to further study of Drama and indeed a wide range of other subjects. The course aims to develop pupils interest in Drama and Theatre as participants and informed members of an audience. They will also develop knowledge and understanding of major influences in theatre.

Ultimately, the GCSE Drama course offers a range of opportunities to develop Drama and Theatre skills creatively and imaginatively, integrating both theory and practice, as well as developing communication, group work and independent learning skills.

Key subject aims

The Edexcel GCSE in Drama encourages pupils to:

- Develop a personal interest in Drama and be inspired, moved and changed by studying a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study
- Work imaginatively and creatively in collaborative contexts, devising, developing and communicating ideas
- Consider and explore the impact of social, historical and cultural influences on drama texts and activities
- Reflect on and evaluate their own work and the work of others
- Understand the roles and employment avenues of the theatre – working as director, designer and performer
- Actively engage in the process of study to develop as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds



What will I do on the course?

Component One: Devising [Coursework: 40%]

Pupils will create and develop a devised piece from a stimulus. They can respond as either designer or performer, pupils will learn that it is through practical engagement that understanding might be enriched. Stimuli, chosen by the teacher, will allow pupils to deepen their understanding of the chosen theme and come to appreciate how the dramatic medium and strategies can be used to create drama form and communicate meaning. Assessment is also via portfolio.

Component Two: Performance from Text [Coursework: 20%]

This component is concerned with the exploration of one complete and substantial play, which is decided by the teacher based on pupil work over the two years. The purpose is to enable pupils to develop knowledge and understanding of the ways in which performers and designers use the medium of drama to communicate their ideas to an audience. Pupils will be assessed on the performance of or design for, two key extracts from a text. This work is performed to an audience including a visiting examiner and can be group, solo and/or partner based for assessment.

Component 3: Drama Performance [Written examination: 40%]

Section A consists of one question broken into five parts, short and extended responses. We study 1984, a play version of Orwell's futuristic novel concerned with the Ministry of Truth, Big Brother and Room 101. This Component also requires pupils to see a variety of different theatre productions for **Section B**, enabling them to produce a live theatre evaluation from a performance of their choice. Pupils answer two questions, which require analysis and evaluation of the performance seen; pupils are allowed to bring in notes up to a maximum of 500 words.

