

GCSE

Drama



What is Drama?

Drama develops **creativity, confidence, and communication**, essential skills for many careers and further study in the arts, media, and beyond.

Subject-Specific Skills:

- Performance techniques (voice, movement, characterisation)
- Design skills (lighting, sound, set, costume)
- Script analysis & theatre evaluation

Key Career Skills:

- Public speaking & presentation
- Teamwork & problem-solving
- Critical thinking & adaptability

Related Industries:

- Theatre, Film & TV
- Media & Journalism
- Law & Public Speaking
- Education & Therapy



Course Overview and structure.

AQA GCSE Drama – Course Overview

Component One: Understanding Drama (40%) – Written Exam (1hr 45m)

- Study a **set play** and **theatre roles** (e.g., director, designer).
- Analyse and evaluate a **live theatre performance**.

Component Two: Devising Drama (40%) – Practical & Coursework

- Create and perform an **original piece** based on a stimulus.
- Complete a **Devising Log** reflecting on the process.

Component Three: Texts in Practice (20%) – Performance

- Perform **two extracts** from a published play.
- Assessed by an **external examiner**.



Assessment

GCSE Drama, Graded: 1-9

Modes of Assessment in GCSE Drama (AQA)

Written Exam (40%) – Component One

- 1 hour 45-minute exam.
- Multiple-choice questions on theatre roles.
- Analysis of a **set play** from the perspective of a **performer, designer, and director**.
- Evaluation of a **live theatre performance**.

Practical Performance & Coursework (40%) – Component Two

- **Devised performance** (original theatre piece).
- **Choose to be a performer or designer** (lighting, sound, set, costume).
- **Devising Log** (written reflection on process & performance).
- Internally assessed, externally moderated.

Practical Performance (20%) – Component Three

- Perform **two key extracts** from a published play.
- **Choose to be a performer or designer**.
- Assessed by an **external examiner**.



Drama Component One

GCSE Drama AQA Component Two: Performance from Text

- **Rehearsal:**
 - Students are given a scripted play to work on. They rehearse a selected extract, focusing on character development, interpretation, and performance techniques.
- **Performance:**
 - Students perform the chosen scene(s) from the play in front of an audience.
- **Textual Understanding:**
 - Students demonstrate their understanding of the play, character motivations, themes, and context through their performance.
- **Skills Developed:**
 - Acting skills, character analysis, interpretation, and stagecraft.



Drama Component Two

GCSE Drama AQA Devised Drama



- **Stimulus:**
 - Students are given a stimulus (text, image, music, etc.) to inspire the creation of an original performance.
- **Devising Process:**
 - Students work collaboratively to develop characters, themes, and ideas. They experiment with different techniques like improvisation, physical theatre, and role-play.
- **Final Performance:**
 - Students present their devised piece to an audience in any style or genre, reflecting the creative development from the stimulus.
- **Portfolio:**
 - A written document that outlines the research, development, and evaluation of the devised work, showing the process behind the performance.
- **Skills Developed:**
 - Creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and reflective analysis.

Drama Component Three

Component Three: Texts in Practice (20%) – Practical Performance

Overview:

- Students perform **two key extracts** from a published play.
- They can choose to be a **performer** or **designer** (lighting, sound, set, or costume).
- The focus is on **interpretation, creativity, and communication** of the script.

Performers will:

- Develop characterisation through **voice, movement, facial expression, and staging**.
- Apply skills learned throughout the course to bring their character to life.

Designers will:

- Create an effective **theatrical design concept** for the extracts.
- Use elements like **lighting, sound, set, and costume** to enhance storytelling.
- Present their design choices to communicate themes and emotions.



Key Career Skills

- **Effective communication (both verbal and written)**
- **Critical thinking**
- **Analysis**
- **Organisation and structuring of ideas**
- **Literacy skills**

Future study opportunities

Studying **DRAMA** can lead to further study in;

- Any creative subject at Level 3 (A level), for example at NSG we offer:
 - **A Level Drama**
 - **A Level Dance**
 - **A Level Music**
- Other creative subjects, such as;
 - **Art subjects, such as fine art, illustrator etc**
 - **English or Film Studies**
 - **Design subjects, such as graphic or textile design.**

Future career opportunities

Studying **DRAMA** can lead to a career in;

- **Lawyer** - the key skills gained from drama are essential for careers in the legal profession.
- **Director** – Creating and shaping performances for stage or screen.
- **Drama Teacher** – Teaching Drama at schools, colleges, or through private coaching.
- **Stage Manager** – Overseeing productions and ensuring smooth performances.
- **Theatre Technician** – Working in lighting, sound, set design, and special effects.
- **Public Relations/Communications** – Using performance and communication skills in media, events, and corporate settings.
- **Actor** – Performing in theatre, film, TV, or voice acting.