

**AS and A Level**  
*Qualification Fact Sheet*

# DRAMA AND THEATRE

## What does the new specification offer?

OCR AS and A Level Drama and Theatre specifications take a contemporary approach to studying the subject. It builds on the GCSE specification, giving students opportunities to develop key skills in performance of their chosen skill, in the creative and rehearsal process and in analysing and evaluating a range of theatrical texts.

Students can choose a route through the course and will be assessed as either a **performer** or as a **designer** in the non-exam components. The designer options of **lighting; sound; set; costume** have their own marking criteria and specification requirements, ensuring students are well supported in taking these options and are credited for the skills needed for their chosen discipline. Designers will create artefacts of their design ideas and demonstrate their skills in a live performance.





In both the AS and the A Level qualifications there is **60% non-exam assessment** and **40% exam assessment**. Both qualifications require students to study, explore and interpret performance texts to support their understanding and knowledge, and to aid them in demonstrating their analytical and evaluative skills.

During the AS qualification students will study **three performance texts**:

- One **full text** (chosen by the centre) for the 'Process to performance' component.
- Two further **extracts** from texts, from a set list to fit a thematic title. These are explored practically throughout the course and students are assessed in the final exam assessment.

During the full A Level qualification students will study **five performance texts**:

- One **full text** (chosen by the centre) for 'Exploring and performing texts' component.
- A second **full text** (chosen from a selection of eight set texts) which is studied in depth during the course and tested during the 'Deconstructing texts for performance' exam assessment.
- An **extract** from a text, chosen by the centre, to support student understanding for the 'Practitioners in Practice' devised performance.
- Two further **extracts** from texts, from a set list to fit a thematic title. These are explored practically throughout the course and students are assessed in the exam assessment.

## What to expect in the non-exam assessments (60% of qualification)

### Process to Performance (AS Level)

120 marks

Students will produce a performance **based on a text** chosen by the centre, which will assess their **chosen theatrical skill (performance or design.)**

Students produce an accompanying portfolio with evidence of the process, including the influence of a practitioner they have studied.

### Practitioners in Practice (A Level)

120 marks

Students will create their own **devised performance** based on and stimulus and influenced by the work of others. This must include:

- The study of a core practitioner from a set list;
- The study of a second centre chosen practitioner;
- The study/exploration of an extract from a relevant supporting text (chosen by the centre);

In addition to the performance, students will be marked on an accompanying portfolio with evidence of the process.

### Exploring and Performing Texts (A Level)

60 marks for A Level

Students will produce a performance **based on a text** chosen by the centre, which will assess their **chosen theatrical skill (performance or design.)**

Students will be required to produce an accompanying concept document which outlines their intentions for the performance.

## What to expect in the exam assessment (40% of qualification)

The exam component(s) will be assessed at the end of the course. The Paper A exams are **2 hours 15 minutes** each and the Paper B exam is **1 hour and 45 minutes**.

### Paper A: Exploring/Analysing Performance

AS: 80 marks (40%), A Level: 60 marks (20%)

Students will be assessed on their knowledge and understanding and their ability to analyse and evaluate.

Section A: Students explore practically using **extracts from two different texts** from a set list based on a chosen theme given by the exam board.

Section B: This section asks the students to review a performance they have seen on their course. They will be assessed on their ability to **analyse and evaluate**.

### Paper B: Deconstructing Texts for Performance

60 marks (A Level only 20%)

This component requires students to study a set text in detail. The paper will contain questions about **directorial decisions** for the text and assesses students' knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is created and developed for performance.



## How is the qualification marked?

There are 200 marks available for the AS qualification and 300 marks available for the A Level.

**AO1:** Create and develop ideas to communicate meaning as part of the theatre making process, making connections between dramatic theory and practice.

**AO3:** Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is developed and performed.

**AO2:** Apply theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions in live performance.

**AO4:** Analyse and evaluate their own work and the work of others.



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