

Drama

Qualification: Drama and Theatre A-Level
Additional Entry Information: B grade in GCSE Drama ideally
Speak to **Ms L Roberts** for more information.

What do students need to know or be able to do before taking the course?

The qualification will build on the students acting and theoretical skills. It involves a range of practical and theoretical aspects. The student may have studied GCSE Drama to access, however technical candidates need not have studied GCSE Drama previously.

What will students learn on this course (skills and course content)?

Learners will gain knowledge and understanding of:

- Different practitioner within the theatrical genre such as: Artaud, Frantic Assembly, Brecht and Berkoff.
- The theatrical processes and practices involved in interpreting and performing theatre
- How conventions, forms and techniques are used in drama and live theatre to create meaning, including the:
 - Use of performance space and spatial relationships on stage
 - Relationships between performers and audience
 - Design of set, costume, make-up, lighting, sound, and props
 - Performer's vocal and physical interpretation of character
- How creative and artistic choices influence how meaning is communicated to an audience
- How performance texts are constructed to be performed, conveying meaning through:
 - Structure
 - Language
 - Stage directions
 - Character construction
 - The style of text
- How performance texts are informed by their social, cultural, and historical contexts, and are interpreted and performed for an audience
- The connections between theory and practice in a range of periods, theatrical styles, social, historical, and cultural contexts
- How relevant research, independent thought and analysis of live theatre informs decision making in their own practical work
- How theatre makers collaborate to create theatre.

Learners will also demonstrate the ability to:

- Use the working methodologies of two theatre practitioners or theatre companies
- Use theatrical techniques to create meaning in a live theatre context as theatre makers through:
 - Research and development of ideas



- Interpretation of texts
- Devising
- Amending, rehearsing, and refining work in progress
- Realising artistic intentions creatively and coherently through performance or design
- Apply research to inform practical work to inform their own decision making and achieve clear dramatic and theatrical intentions
- Analyse and evaluate the process of creating their own live theatre and the effectiveness of the final outcome
- Interpret, analyse, and evaluate live theatre performance by others.

What sort of student is this course suitable for?

This course is suitable for anyone wishing to develop their skills as performers. Primarily aimed at acting, students will also develop their directing skills as well as learning about new practitioners, performance styles, texts, and playwrights.

This course is also suitable for students who wish to study lighting design, sound design and costume design. It is an excellent choice for an entry path into the technical side of theatre.

What kind of work will students need to be able to do outside of lessons?

The students will be required to read the set texts and do wider research. There is also a lot of onus on the students to rehearse their performance work in lessons away from the studio. They will also need to watch live theatre and engage in current affairs, current theatrical practices and keep up to date with live theatre in and around Wales.

What is the course content and how is this assessed?

AS Unit 1: Theatre Workshop

Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated. 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. The piece must be developed using the techniques and working methods of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company.

Learners must produce a realisation of the performance or design, 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 from the following list:



- Medea, by Euripides
- The Comedy of Errors by William Shakespeare
- An Enemy of the People by Henrik Ibsen
- Ubu Roi by Alfred Jarry
- A View from the Bridge by Arthur Miller
- The Woman made of Flowers by Saunders Lewis.

A2 Unit 3: Text in Action

Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner. 36% of qualification

Learners will be assessed on either acting or design.

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 (a different practitioner or company to that chosen for Unit 1)
- An extract from a text in a different style chosen by the learner.

Learners must realise their performance live for the visiting examiner.

Learners choosing design must also give a non-assessed 5-10-minute presentation of their design to the examiner.

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 by Peter Nichols
- Sweeney Todd by Stephen Sondheim
- The Absence of War by David Hare
- *Mametz by Owen Sheers
- *The Radicalisation of Bradley Manning by Tim Price
- One Moonlit Night by Caradog Prichard, (Adapted by Bara Caws).

(*These texts contain language and content of an adult nature).

What could students go on to do at the end of this course?

Jobs and future courses directly related to this qualification include:

- Actor
- Lighting Designer
- Sound Designer
- Costume Designer
- Theatre producer
- Community arts worker
- Dancer
- Drama therapist
- Music therapist
- Theatre director
- Drama Teacher
- Performing Arts Teacher

Jobs and courses where this qualification would be useful include:

- Arts administrator
- Broadcast presenter
- Film director
- Further education teacher
- Higher education lecturer
- Secondary school teacher
- Theatre stage manager
- Sound Technician
- Lighting Technician
- Costumier/Seamstress
- Playwriter
- Public Speaker