



Harmonize Academy

Subject Overview

Performing Arts



GCSE Drama offers students the opportunity to explore drama as a practical art form in which ideas and meaning are communicated to an audience through choices of form, style and convention. Students will create, perform and respond to drama informed by their theoretical knowledge of drama and theatre.

How do we deliver Performing Arts?

AQA GCSE Drama

The subject content details the knowledge, understanding and skills that students are expected to develop throughout the course of study. The subject content for GCSE Drama is divided into three components.

1. Understanding Drama
2. Devising Drama
3. Text in Practice

For the practical units' students choose to work as performers or designers (design students may choose lighting, sound, set, costume or puppets). Our specification engages and encourages students to become confident performers and designers with the skills they need for a bright and successful future.

All students devise drama

All students explore texts practically and work on two text-based performances

All students will sit a written

Component breakdown:

Component 1: Understanding Drama

What's assessed:

Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre.

Study of one set play from a choice of nine.

Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers.

How it's assessed:

Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes

Open book

80 marks

40% of GCSE

Component 2: Devising Drama

What's assessed:

Process of creating devised drama

Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer or designer)

How it's assessed:

Devising log (60 marks)

Devised performance (20 marks)

80 marks in total

40% of GCSE

Component 3: Text in Practice

What's assessed:

Process of creating devised drama

Performance of two extracts from one play (students may contribute as performer or designer)

Free choice of play but it must contrast with the set play chosen for Component 1.

How it's assessed:

Performance of Extract 1 (20 marks) and Extract 2 (20 marks)

40 marks in total

20% of GCSE

Grades 9-1

Future pathways

Clear progression to BTEC, AS and A- level qualifications

This specification ensures continuity for students progressing from GCSE Drama to BTEC, AS and A-level Drama and Theatre.

Transferable skills

Students learn to collaborate with others, think analytically and evaluate effectively. They gain the confidence to pursue their own ideas, reflect and refine their efforts. Whatever the future holds, students of GCSE Drama emerge with a toolkit of transferable skills, applicable both in further studies and in the workplace.

NCFE L2 in Performance Skills

Overview

This qualification is designed for learners who may be interested in working in the performance industry. The focus of the qualification is on the learner's ability and desire to perform. The Level 2 Certificate in Performance Skills is an ideal qualification for learners who wish to obtain underpinning knowledge of processes and principles of performance skills. This qualification will: focus on the study of the performance, within the arts, media and publishing sector. Offer breadth and depth of study, incorporating a key core of knowledge and provide opportunities to acquire a number of practical and technical skills.

Students are required to complete two mandatory units (unit 1 & 2) and two optional units (unit 4 & 5)

Unit breakdown:

Unit 1: Develop Technique for Performance

This unit provides an opportunity to develop the practical skills required for the chosen art form. Learners will be able to demonstrate and develop technique for performance.

What's assessed

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre.
- Assessment of current strengths and weaknesses.
- Develop practical skills for chosen art form.
- Analysis and evaluation of present level of practical skill.

How it's assessed

- Mandatory Unit
- Portfolio
- Practical

Unit 2: Rehearse and Perform

This unit develops the understanding and effectiveness of rehearsal processes and performance skills and discipline.

What's assessed

- Process of creating and performing drama
- Performance of devised and scripted drama (students may contribute as performer or designer)
- Analysis and evaluation of own work and performance

How it's assessed

- Mandatory Unit
- Portfolio
- Practical

Unit 4: Design for Performance

The aim of this unit is to develop learners' knowledge of costume, prop and set design and production skills. The learner will develop design production skills that will enable them to make a set, costume, prop, lighting or sound design contribution to a production or live performance.

What's assessed

- Process of designing for performance
- Knowledge of characteristics of performance environments
- Implementation design production skills
- Use production skills, materials and processes to realise design ideas

How it's assessed

- Portfolio
- Evidence of set used in live performance (Video)

Unit 5: Working in the Performing Arts Industry

This unit aims to provide learners with knowledge of employment opportunities within the performing arts industry and the jobs undertaken by those who work in it.

What's assessed

- Knowledge of different types of organisations in the performing arts industry
- Knowledge of performing arts organisations, its function and relation to other areas of the industry

How it's assessed

- Portfolio
- Learner Presentation

Grades PASS or FAIL

Future pathways

Learners who achieve this qualification could progress to: Level 2 Music Technology qualifications and Level 3 Performing Arts qualifications. It may also be useful to learners studying qualifications in the following sectors: Theatre, stage design or stage management.

This qualification can be used to develop learners': English skills, Mathematics skills and Information and Communication Technology skills.

Learners will complete this qualification in year 10 and progress onto GCSE Drama in year 11.

Transferable skills

Students learn to collaborate with others, think analytically and evaluate effectively. They gain the confidence to pursue their own ideas, reflect and refine their efforts. Whatever the future holds, students of NCFE in Performance Skills emerge with a toolkit of transferable skills, applicable both in further studies and in the workplace.