

Subject: Theatre Studies

Teachers: N.Saysell / B.Lord

Exam Board: AQA

NEWPORT GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

KS5 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Curriculum Intent & Organisation	
A Level Theatre Studies emphasises practical creativity alongside research and theoretical understanding. Throughout the course, students will learn through experience, seeing live theatre and devising theatre for themselves.	
Examination Information	Facilitating Subject?
Drama and Theatre Studies is assessed through both practical components and a final written examination. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Drama and Theatre (40%) – Study of two set plays / live performance analysis– written examination (3 hours)2. Creating Original Drama (30%) – Create and perform devised drama influenced by the work and methodologies of one practitioner - Working notebook and devised performance3. Making theatre (30%) – Practical exploration and interpretation of three contrasting extracts - Performance and reflective report	No
Impact of Prior Learning from KS4	
It is not essential to have studied GCSE Drama, however, experience of live theatre as a performer, designer or audience member is essential. To introduce students to the course and help them best prepare for this A Level, students are expected to read the set text for the first year of the course over the summer holidays, in addition to researching a number of named practitioners. This aids students in preparing for the demands of the course and enables students to get to grips with the set texts and key practitioners which underpin the theoretical and practical components of the course.	
Equipment Required for this course	
Two lever arch folders and lined paper Standard classroom stationary A copy of the set texts	

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Curriculum Implementation – Areas of Focus Year 12		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Component 2/ 3: Introduction to Practitioners. Students will be introduced to the work and methodologies of a range of drama practitioners from a prescribed list provided by AQA.• Component 1 Section A: Study of Sophocles' Antigone Thorough introduction and investigation of the first text through practical exploration, discussion, design and written tasks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Component 2: Devising and working notebook Students will draw on and demonstrate a practical understanding of the subject content taught by devising an original piece of theatre, inspired by one practitioner. Students will also produce an individual working notebook detailing their devising process.• Component 1 Section C: Live Theatre Students will learn how to analyse and evaluate the work of live theatre makers (performers/ designers/ directors).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Component 2: Assessment Students will contribute to a devised drama in a live theatre context for an audience. Individual working notebooks will be completed and submitted for internal moderation.• Component 1 Section A: Antigone and Live Theatre Students will consolidate revision notes and use past examination material to evidence understanding.

Curriculum Implementation – Areas of Focus Year 13		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Component 3: Extract 1 and 2, Reflective Report Students will practically explore (workshop) and interpret two extracts each from a different play. Students will produce an individual reflective report analysing and evaluating their theatrical interpretation.• Component 1: Study of 'Our Country's Good' Thorough study of the second text through practical exploration, discussion, design and written tasks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Component 3: Extract 3 Performance and Reflective Report Students will explore Extract 3 and apply the work and methodologies of one of the prescribed practitioners. Students will finalise their individual reflective report.• Component 1: Revision and consolidation -Section A: Drama through the ages -Section B: 20th and 21st Century drama -Section C: Live theatre production	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Component 1: Exam Preparation Revision of Section A and B texts for exam. Further exam practice and identification of the demands of each question.

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Impact / Outcomes

Learning will be assessed throughout the course by:

- A baseline audit of skills which is then used for targeted teaching.
- Regular verbal and written feedback on both written work and performed pieces.
- Knowledge tests of the set texts and key terminology relating to dramatic theory.
- Self and group assessment of the success of realising the artistic intentions in a devised performance through the application of taught knowledge and skills.

Homework / Self Study

At A Level it is important that students balance prep reading alongside post-lesson consolidation. Students are expected to complete wider independent reading in conjunction with reading provided by staff. In addition, students should document and organise notes from practical workshops. We also encourage students, wherever possible, to experience a variety of performance styles and genres as part of their independent visits to live theatre.

Ways to support learning

- AQA Theatre Studies webpage (includes access to specifications and past papers): <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/a-level/drama-and-theatre-7262>

There are a number of revision guides which are an optional purchase. The specific guides we would recommend are:

- AQA Theatre Studies Guide
- AQA A Level Drama Play Guide: Antigone
- AQA A Level Drama Play Guide: Our Country's Good

Field Work / Extension / Enrichment Opportunities

- Whole school production involvement
- House drama involvement
- Attendance at theatre visits

Next Steps

The course equips students with transferable skills which can be applied to a diverse range of subjects at further education. The communication skills and autonomous approach to learning which students will develop during the course are transferable to a variety of subjects and careers.

For more information, contact Mrs Saysell, Teacher of English & Drama, and Second in Faculty, via schooloffice@nghs.org.uk