

AQA DRAMA GCSE

HOLYROOD
ACADEMY



Mrs L Shaun

Ishaun@gapps.holyroodacademy.com

Overview of Drama GCSE

AQA GCSE DRAMA

The aim of the course is to encourage students to work imaginatively and creatively in a collaborative context. Drama is an exciting, creative and challenging course and whilst studying this subject you will develop your ability to use your vocal and physical skills effectively to create clearly defined characters in performance.

You will also learn new techniques that will enable you to direct and construct pieces of drama from scratch and bring written scripts to life. Not only this, but you will also develop your skills as a confident communicator, creative thinker and team worker as well as your ability to work independently to research your work and create intelligent and thought provoking pieces of theatre.

The three exam components are:

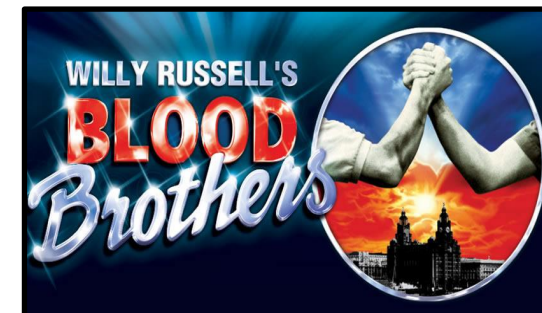
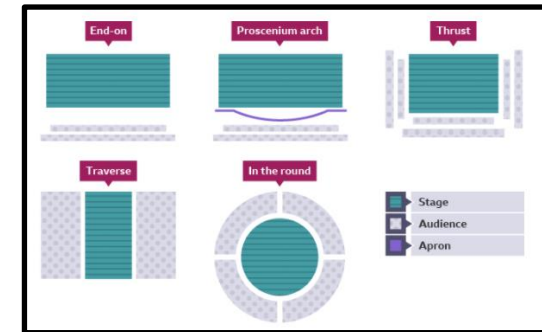
- **Component 1:** *Understanding Drama* - Written Exam – 40% of the GCSE
- **Component 2:** *Devising Drama* – Practical – 40% of the GCSE
- **Component 3:** *Texts in Practice* – Practical - 20% of the GCSE

Examinations

Component 1: Understanding Drama - Written Exam – 40% of the GCSE

This is a 1 hour and 45 minute written exam paper and is split into 3 sections:

- **Section A** - Knowledge and understanding of Drama and Theatre
- **Section B** - Study of one set play – *Blood Brothers*
- **Section C** - Analysis and evaluation of live theatre performances – *The Woman in Black*



Examinations

Component 2: Devising Drama – Practical – 40% of the GCSE

This component involves working in small groups, between three and five people, to devise and create your own performance based on a given stimulus. You will be introduced to a range of Theatre Practitioners, styles of theatre and devising strategies to help you create your own original pieces of performance.

Once you have developed these skills, you will be given a selection of 4 stimuli to choose. This could be picture, video clip, a piece of artwork, a news article, a poem, etc. Using your chosen stimulus as a starting block, you will then develop and rehearse your own piece of theatre and then present this as performance to a live audience. Students are marked on their final performance as a performer, and also in the analysis and evaluation of their work by submitting a devising log.

Breaking down the marks:

- **Devising Log** – 60 marks
- **Devised Performance** – 20 marks
- **Total of 80 marks**



Examinations

Component 3: Texts in Practice – Practical - 20% of the GCSE

- This is a purely practical unit.
- You will each perform in two extracts from one play, chosen by your teacher.
- Each extract is marked out of 20, therefore there are 40 marks available in this unit.
- The focus of this unit is to present a range of vocal and physical skills to the external examiner who will be marking the final performances.



Next steps

What can the Drama GCSE do for you?

It is now widely recognised that Drama can make an enormous contribution to your personal development. In today's world employers are looking for mature, creative people who can communicate effectively - precisely the skills that Drama develops.

Drama will help develop your ability to work in a team. It gives you the opportunity to understand different points of view, create your own opinions, listen purposefully and develop important language skills.

POST 16:

- BTEC LEVEL 3 Performing Arts Course (available here at Holyrood Academy)
- A-Level Drama and Theatre Studies

Possible careers could include:

Actor, Director, Producer, Lighting Designer, Sound Designer, Costume Designer, Stage Manager, Theatre Manager, Theatre Critic, Events Planner, Set Designer, Media, Film and TV, Advertising, Marketing, Journalism, Politics, Teaching and many more.

RADA

THE LONDON
ACADEMY OF
MUSIC AND
DRAMATIC ART

**GUILD
SCHOOL
HALL**

Bristol Old Vic
Theatre School

London's
International
Drama School

**Rose
Bruford
College**
of Theatre
& Performance

Any questions

You will have an opportunity to ask any questions you might have tomorrow night during the year 9 parents' evening.

Otherwise you can contact me via email

Ishaun@gapps.holyroodacademy.com