

Drama and Theatre Studies AS and A Level

Examination board: EDEXCEL

Units 1-3 form the AS qualification for students in Year 12, 2004-5; Units 4-6 complete the A level for students in Year 13, 2004-5.

Unit 1: Exploration of Drama and Theatre [15%]

You will be taking part in regular practical workshops to explore two plays, leading to coursework on each. For 2004 these plays are *The Ash Girl* by Timberlake Wertenbaker and *Oh What a Lovely War* by Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop. Miss Dunn and Mr Wickstead will share the teaching of both texts. The deadline for this coursework is February 7th 2004

Unit 2: Text in Performance I [20%]

This unit is a play production, cast and directed by the teachers and assessed by an outside examiner; you will be marked on how you communicate your role. You will need to keep a written record of the process of rehearsal from start to finish for use in Unit 3. Creating a portfolio for lighting or costume or stage design is an alternative to acting but, from experience, you will need to show independence and initiative if this choice is to bring success. Proposed date for the performance: **week beginning 15th March 2005**

Unit 3: Text in Context I [15%]

A written examination in June with two questions, each in three parts:

1. A question asking for analysis of a live production we have seen

We aim to arrange visits to at least three plays and your notes on the productions are taken into the exam.

2. A second question on the processes and ideas connected with the play production chosen for Unit 2

Unit 4: Devising [20%]

This unit starts from a stimulus provided by your teachers and leads to a devised production; you are expected to keep a record or diary of the process to allow you to answer 10 questions for a coursework portfolio. Dates for the performance have been arranged for **November 10th and 11th** and the deadline for the coursework is **January 5th**, the first day back after Christmas.

Unit 5 Text in Performance II [15%]

This play performance must be a workshop version of a script by a recognised playwright. You assume the role of director of your own production which must last between 15 and 30 minutes and is watched and marked by a visiting examiner. The date proposed is the **week beginning March 14th**.

Unit 6: Text in Context II [15%]

This is a written examination in three parts.

1. This year's chosen set text: *The Beggar's Opera* by John Gay; one essay on your vision for a production as if you were the director
2. A second essay on *The Beggar's Opera* showing how you would rehearse and direct a selected scene.
3. A third essay based on the study of a live production of a C16/17th play, placing today's production in the context of earlier ways the play was performed and interpreted.

Homework and Marking

You will be expected to prepare short presentations to the class and keep written records of the lessons' events and of your contribution to them. The units which require substantial coursework (1,2 and 4) pose no threat if regular note-taking happens. When productions are in preparation, extra hours are inevitable as lines need to be learned and roles rehearsed. We encourage students to submit drafts of written coursework and provide copies of the relevant mark schemes.

Further details

Visits to theatres, either locally or in London will entail some expense. In many cases good subsidies are available for school parties but it is perhaps worth reckoning on at least £30 per year; The normal school procedures apply in cases where financial support is required. Successful candidates are those prepared to get up and try out their ideas for performance, who are curious and questioning, developing their own view of today's world.