

Supporting Your Learner

Higher Drama

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Course Outline

As with other NQ Drama courses, the Higher course is divided into three units: Drama Skills, Production Skills and Performance.

Drama Skills: Pupils respond to stimuli, exploring a range of forms, genre, styles and conventions to devise a piece of drama in small groups. Rehearsals take place as part of class time and pupils are also required to schedule additional rehearsals, working as a company, to prepare their piece for assessment. The course work component requires pupils to research the Social, Geographical and Historical context of their chosen setting and characters, and to present this research to the class. The folio also provides a record of the rehearsal period and group development. A checklist of tasks is included in the Drama Skills course work booklet to support learners. On designated dates, pupils will perform their devised work and evaluate their progress. This is a unit assessment, and is assessed internally.

Production Skills: Pupils respond to scripted stimuli to create scenes in small groups. Pupils are assessed in their role as actors, playing characters from the texts, and as production designers for another group. Rehearsals take place as part of class time and pupils are also required to schedule additional rehearsals, working as a company, to prepare their piece for assessment. The course work component requires pupils to research the Social, Geographical and Historical context of their chosen setting, characters and production concept as designers for another piece of drama. This research is presented to the class. The folio provides a record of the rehearsal period and group development. A checklist of tasks is included in the Production Skills course work booklet to support learners. On designated dates, pupils will perform their devised work and evaluate their progress. This is a unit assessment, and is assessed internally. Pupils have choices about interpretation of the text and the production design skills they include to enhance their work. This is a unit assessment, and is assessed internally.

Performance: Pupils perform two scripted pieces, in contrasting roles, from published texts. Pupils will complete research and participate in an extensive rehearsal period in preparation to perform these pieces. Acting pieces are cast in December and pupils have a Christmas homework task to begin researching their roles and learning their lines. An SQA examiner marks the pieces in a performance exam in March. A prelim exam allows pupils to consider their progress in order to improve their performances before exam day. The performance is 60% of the overall mark in Higher Drama. The **written exam paper** is comprised of two essays, to be completed in two hours. The first essay requires pupils to choose a production role and explain their concepts for a performance from the text they have been studying throughout the year. The second essay requires pupils to analyse a professional performance they



have been to see with the class, they may choose from a range of productions the department organises. This paper takes place as part of the main exam diet in May and is 40% of the overall mark in Higher Drama

Exam Preparation

- Attend Performance Exam rehearsals for both pieces and practise lines at home.
- Revise quotes and concepts from the study of the set text, to discuss in the Textual Analysis essay question.
- Revise ideas and issues from professional productions to discuss in the Performance Analysis essay question.
- Revise terminology from the Drama Lexicon, issued to all pupils
- Complete homework tasks, including past paper questions and essay redrafts, to improve progress in structuring essay response.

Useful Websites

<https://www.nationaltheatrescotland.com/content/>
<http://www.traverse.co.uk/>
<http://lyceum.org.uk/>

Useful Textbooks

Harold Pinter: Faber Critical Guides by Bill Naismith and Harold Pinter
Actions: The Actor's Thesaurus by [Marina Caldarone](#)



Revision Classes

Additional rehearsals for Performance exam run after school most days from January-March to support learners across all levels to improve their performances.

An Easter revision class supports pupils to complete the written exam and additional teacher support is available to support pupils outside class time through negotiation.

SQA Past Papers

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm?subject=Drama&level=H>

Understanding Standards

<http://www.understandingstandards.org.uk/Subjects/Drama/Higher>

