

Supporting Your Learner

National 5 Drama

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Course Outline

As with other NQ Drama courses, the National 5 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 they have developed ideas about from the stimuli, 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 design for another drama, and to present this research 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 skills that they develop to enhance the work. This is a unit assessment, and is assessed internally. Pupils are also expected to analyse a professional performance they have been to see with the class as part of the unit. They may choose from the productions the department organises or choose a production they have seen independently.

Performance: Pupils perform one scripted interactive piece from a published text. Pupils will complete research, and participate in an extensive rehearsal period, in preparation to perform this piece. 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 piece in a performance exam in March. The 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 National 5 Drama. The **written exam paper** is a question paper completed in 1 hour and 30 minutes. The first part of the paper requires pupils to describe their participation in a production role, and explain their concepts for a



performance from work they have completed during the year. The second part of the paper requires pupils to create ideas for a piece of Drama from stimuli offered on the paper. This paper takes place as part of the main exam diet in May and is 40% of the overall mark in National 5 Drama

Exam Preparation

- Attend Performance Exam rehearsals and practice lines at home
- Revise from the Drama Lexicon, issued to all pupils
- Complete homework tasks including evaluation tasks and past paper questions, to improve progress in structuring written paper responses.

Useful Websites

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

Useful Textbooks

<http://www.brightredpublishing.co.uk/Shop/n5-drama>
<https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/Product?Product=9781471860553>



Revision Classes

Additional rehearsals for the 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 outside class time through negotiation.

SQA Past Papers

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm?subject=Drama&level=N5>

Understanding Standards

<http://www.understandingstandards.org.uk/Subjects/Drama/National5>

