

A LEVEL DRAMA

2025-26



THE
PORTSMOUTH
GRAMMAR
SCHOOL



Course Outline

Drama A Level is an academic, intellectually stimulating course which includes ongoing discussion and collaboration, research, and coursework assessment of practical performance or technical skills. During the course pupils study the work of key directors and playwrights and learn about a range of important performance styles. Written work is a crucial aspect of the course, and pupils write about their ideas for performing roles, how they would direct a scene from both set texts and live productions, and their design ideas. Theatre trips are an essential part of the course and at least two or three are arranged to theatres both locally and in London.

Skills Required and Developed at A Level

Good acting skills, or alternatively good technical skills, are important to success at A Level Drama. Much time is spent on practical work in Drama lessons so the willingness to work constructively with others and to share ideas is essential. Essay writing technique about set playscripts and live performance is also a necessity, and time will be given to the progression of this. Consistent notetaking is a key skill that pupils need to develop during the course.

A Level External Assessment

The subject content is divided into three components:

- Drama and Theatre (an open book examination worth 40% of the A Level)
- Creating Original Drama (coursework and practical performance worth 30% of the A Level. Design and Directing are also options here.)
- Making Theatre coursework and practical performance or design of three scripted extracts, worth 30% of the A Level.

Entry Requirements

It is not essential to have studied Drama at GCSE, or equivalent, to take this course, although it is desirable. A good standard of written English is important, as is a real interest in theatre and live performance. Pupils will be expected to have achieved at least a Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or Literature, or equivalent.

Beyond the Classroom

There are many opportunities for Sixth Formers to participate in high-quality Drama activities, including the whole school production, staged every November. At the end of the Summer Term the Sixth Form stage a production which is directed by a pupil and, in recent years, PGS has sent productions to the Edinburgh Fringe and the Avignon OFF Festival in Provence during the summer holidays. House Drama is a successful annual event, and we also offer the Arts Award for those pupils looking to explore their passion for theatre via a range of independent and collaborative projects.

University Courses and Professions that Require the Subject

Drama is not a "soft subject", and it is no barrier to Oxbridge or Russell Group universities. Drama is not a requirement for any university course (apart from Drama itself) but is of added value in the study of literature, history, law and media and communications. Drama pupils from PGS have gone on to read Law at Oxford, History at Durham, and Drama at a wide range of universities and drama schools including Birmingham and Bristol universities, Central School of Drama and LAMDA.



More Information

Contact our Director of Drama, Mr. J Robinson:

- Telephone: 023 9268 1358
- Email: J.Robinson@pgs.org.uk

You can also find more information on the exam board's website: www.aqa.org.uk

