



Upton Court  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

# Drama Department

Starting your  
GCSE



Preparing for your Drama GCSE



## **Exam board: OCR**

As a department, we provide students with opportunities to develop their practical skills as well as introducing them to a wide range of drama in order to develop their skills of performing and analysing.

## **Achieving your Potential**

**Preparing for exams can seem daunting but the department provides detailed revision resources and individualized support to aid learning. Here are some of the ways in which you can make the most of support:**

- Try to see as much theatre as you can leading up to Year 9. This doesn't need to be in London as there are plenty of local theatres in Windsor, Maidenhead and Reading.
  - Participate in extra-curricular activities such as the school play.
- Log on regularly to Doodle in order to look at resources set by your teacher, complete homework and check your progress.
  - Download any tailored revision materials created by the department.
- Use in-class and homework opportunities to create revision resources such as cue cards using the website Quizlet.
- Try and watch a wide variety of clips that can be found online and go to watch live theatre as part of extra-curricular trips or in your own time.

## **Extending Learning**

Of course, the study of drama at GCSE is not just about passing exams. The Drama Department seeks to provide opportunities for students to enrich learning at KS4 and KS5. Some of these include:

- Trips to watch performances relevant to the set texts as well as other theatrical performances.
- Workshops from visiting performers.
- The unique opportunity to promote the subject in fun ways as an Ambassador.

## Strategies for Learning

### Consolidating Learning



Research shows that reviewing information soon after it has been learnt allows students to remember much more. Returning to the learning from a lesson later in the same day will allow you to be much more successful.

### Organising Learning



You will complete a significant amount of classwork, homework, independent work and other activities in preparation for your GCSE exams. Successful students find ways to organise their time and learning effectively so that it is of use to them.

### COPE Strategies:

- Create flash cards after each theory lesson covering key content using Quizlet
- Download and print all revision slides provided by the teacher
- Review these worksheets and revision slides for half-termly tests.

### COPE Strategies:

- Create a rehearsal timetable.
- Complete exam questions in timed conditions
- Use banks of practice questions to create a booklet of essay writing plans.

### Preparing Revision Materials

Successful students prepare for revision and revise earlier topics throughout the year – this means creating revision materials throughout the year in preparation for the exam period. They will also revise constantly so they do not become rusty on earlier topics. They use in class assessments and Pre-Public exams to perfect their revision strategies.



### Exam Practice

Ultimately, your success will be measured in your practical coursework and in the public exams at the end of Year 11. Successful students practise their



performances regularly, acting upon feedback, practise many past papers, find effective ways to monitor and improve their exam technique, and are very familiar with the mark scheme and how it will be applied.

## Structure of coursework and examination

Learners will research and explore a stimulus, work collaboratively and create their own devised drama.	Devising drama* (01/02) 60 marks Non-exam assessment	30% of total GCSE	(Y10)
Learners develop and apply theatrical skills in acting or design by presenting a showcase of two extracts from a performance text.	Presenting and performing texts* (03) 60 marks Non-exam assessment (Visiting examination)	30% of total GCSE	(Y11)
Learners will explore practically a performance text to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of drama.  Learners will analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance.**	Drama: Performance and response* (04) 80 marks Exam assessment 1 hour 30 minutes (Written paper)	40% of total GCSE	

### Useful Websites



OCR is the exam board used and has plenty of resources including: specifications, past papers and exemplar material. Look at this to get an in depth view of the course in general or tips on how to write and structure essays.

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-drama-j316-from-2016/>

**DODDLE** The **Doddle** website is monitored by teachers. It contains a range of resources and quizzes to support students' learning and teachers use this to set work for classes and individual students to help them improve. In addition, teachers can use Doddle to record students' progress and targets. This information can be accessed online at any time by students and parents.

<http://www.doddlelearn.co.uk/>



Quizlet is an online learning resource that allows students to create flashcards for any topic. These flash cards can be printed or used online for revision games.

<https://quizlet.com/>