



Faculty of Expressive Arts

# NAT 4/5 DRAMA

## SUPPORTING YOUR YOUNG PERSON

### SUPPORT YOU CAN OFFER

There are many ways in which you can support your young person in this highly practical and creative course.

#### **Assist with their line learning at home.**

All acting students are required to perform a lengthy acting piece for their final assessment. If they have someone to rehearse with at home, this can be beneficial. Making an audio recording is also useful for learning lines and cues as your young person can listen back to it and memorise conversations between characters.

#### **Encourage your young person to organise and attend lunchtime or afterschool rehearsals.**

Extra rehearsals out with class time are the key to excelling in the final acting exams. Both drama studios are available for lunchtime and afterschool rehearsals. It is essential that students make regular use of these studios for exam preparation. Groups must agree upon a rehearsal time, then book their preferred studio with a drama teacher.

#### **When possible, take them to see a play at the theatre.**

Live theatre provides a great opportunity for your young person to witness their learning in action. After the performance, discuss with them their thoughts on the play's acting, plot, costumes, make-up, lighting, sound and set design.

#### **Test your young person on their ability to recall and define drama vocabulary.**

There are over two-hundred drama vocabulary terms in N5 Drama. At N5 level, all learners are required to know what they mean when using them in the written paper exam. Flashcard sites such as Quizlet (see below) can help with this.

## STUDY RESOURCES

#### [SOA Understanding Standards Website](#)

This site offers a range of completed past papers for your young person to study. It's useful for understanding how to gain marks in the written exam.

#### [SOA Past Papers](#)

This site offers a range of past papers for students to practice with under open-book and timed conditions.

#### [Quizlet](#)

An online resource for creating and using flashcards. Perfect for revising drama vocabulary. Note: Please create an account with your glow email address.

#### [BBC Bitesize](#)

Follow the links to GCSE Drama as well as N4/5 for drama revision resources.

#### [Show My Homework](#)

All homework tasks and resources are posted here online.

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### COURSE CONTENT

This course enables students to develop and use a range of drama skills and drama production skills.

At Peebles High School, National Drama consists of two units: Drama Skills and Drama: Production Skills. Students also spend a significant proportion of the course preparing for their practical performance and written exam paper.

#### **Drama Skills**

In this first unit, students will explore and develop drama skills to communicate thoughts and ideas to an audience. Pupils will learn how to respond to scripts and stimuli so they can devise, direct, perform and evaluate a piece of drama.

#### **Drama: Production Skills**

In this second unit, students will practically explore a range of theatre production skills including; set design, lighting, sound, costume, props, make-up and hair. They will then apply these skills to a devised or scripted performance.

### COURSE AIMS

This course enables students to:

- generate and communicate thoughts and ideas when creating drama.
- develop their knowledge and understanding of a range of social and cultural influences on drama.
- develop a range of skills in presenting drama.
- develop knowledge and understanding of production skills when presenting drama.
- explore drama form, structure, genre and style.

As students develop practical skills in creating and presenting drama, they will also analyse and evaluate their use of self-expression, language and movement. Furthermore, learners will develop critical thinking skills as they investigate, develop and apply a range of drama skills and production skills.

# ASSESSMENT

## At a glance:

| National 4 Drama  | National 5 Drama  |
|---|---|
| Drama Skills Unit - Pass/Fail   | Drama Skills Unit - Pass/Fail   |
| Drama: Production Skills Unit - Pass/Fail                             | Drama: Production Skills Unit - Pass/Fail   |
| Added Value Unit: Drama Performance - Pass/Fail (Internally assessed) | Exam (Externally assessed):<br>Component 1 - Question Paper (60 marks)<br>Component 2 - Performance (50 marks)<br>Prep for Performance Essay (10 marks) |

## National 5 (in detail):

### Question Paper (40% of the course)

The purpose of the question paper is to assess students' knowledge and skills from across the course. It allows students to demonstrate their ability to interpret performance-related questions and respond in an informed way.

The written paper consists of two sections:

- **Section 1 - (20 marks)**  
Section 1 assesses the student's ability to evaluate their own work and the work of others during the process of creating, rehearsing and performing drama.
- **Section 2 - (40 Marks)**  
Section 2 assesses the student's ability to respond to stimuli and create their own piece of drama suitable for a performance.

Students are required to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of both process and performance. They are expected to use drama terminology throughout the paper.

### Performance (60 % of the course)

The performance consists of two sections:

#### **Section 1: Preparation for Performance (10 marks)**

Students write about their preparation for performance. Marks are awarded for research into their chosen performance text, thoughts and ideas for their proposed performance and development of ideas into a final performance concept.

#### **Section 2 - Performance (50 marks)**

The performance allows students to draw on and apply the skills, knowledge and understanding they have developed during their course. The performance involves students presenting one textual extract from a full-length play.

Students will perform their extract to a live audience in front of an external SQA examiner and an internal assessor (their drama teacher). Depending on the number of actors involved in the scene, performance could last between 10 and 30 minutes in length.

## HOMEWORK

Homework is an important part of the course and will be issued on a regular basis to enhance and consolidate upon the work carried out in class. Homework may take the form of topical research, script reading, script writing, designing, evaluating, essay writing, and line learning.

## PROGRESSION

Successful completion of this course may enable progression towards:

- Higher Drama for students who achieve a pass at National 5 level.
- National 5 Drama for students who achieve a pass at National 4 level.

## EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

National Drama is both an enjoyable and challenging course. Students are expected to exercise their emotional intelligence, creativity and imagination on a regular basis. While studying drama, students develop important skills in resilience, critical thinking, communication, presentation, cooperation, creativity and confidence. All of these skills are highly valued by employers.

This course challenges students to express themselves in different ways. Learning through drama helps students to appreciate cultural values, identities and ideas. While working co-operatively in groups, students also learn how to negotiate with others sensitively.

Finally, drama students often become more adaptable, mature and organised while working with others to produce creative content within set timescales.

## ADDITIONAL INFO

### **Recommended Entry**

The level at which you study National Drama will be based on your prior experience of drama. Prospective students should have a strong, enthusiastic interest in drama, a willingness to participate and engage with other people, the confidence to experiment and share in a group setting, the confidence to present in front of a class, good organisational skills and a commitment to complete all written work on time.

### **Costs**

Students undertake two theatre trips as part of their course. These will incur costs for tickets and transport, but financial support may be available if required.