

NAT 4/5 DRAMA



Faculty of Expressive Arts

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 mandatory 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): Component 1 - Question Paper (60 marks) Component 2 - Performance (50 marks) 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 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 provide 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 imagination and creative skills on a regular basis. While studying drama, students develop other important skills such as emotional intelligence, 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 one theatre trip as part of their course. These will incur costs for tickets and transport, but financial support may be available if required.

SCQF (Scottish Credit & Qualifications Framework)

Level 5 (24 SCQF credit points)

NOTES