

*Thinking about choosing to study Drama or Theatre Studies at Advanced level?*

**or** *Already studying it and wondering what your next step might be?*

*This worksheet has been designed to help you consider how you can use what you learn from an Advanced level course in Drama or Theatre Studies in your future career*

## + What to study it with?

When choosing to study A level courses full time it is usual to study four subjects at AS level in the first year then three at A2 level in the second year. It is also possible to study some subjects via the vocationally related route (Applied A level double awards and BTEC Diplomas). Drama and Theatre Studies would come under Performing Arts on this route. The other subjects you choose to combine with Drama or Theatre Studies may have an influence upon what you can choose beyond Advanced level, so check out your choice. Although some Advanced level subjects require a good grade at GCSE as a foundation for study at the advanced level, others can be studied from scratch. It's a good idea to check this out before finalising your Advanced level course choices.

CAREER WARNING

# \* DRAMA / THEATRE STUDIES

Studying any Advanced level course will give you two main things, knowledge about the content of the subject (the life and works of playwrights, performance methods and techniques, etc.) and skills in how to deal with that content. Although you may not need to remember the content for very much longer than your course, the skills you develop can be built on and used throughout the rest of your life.

## MIX & MATCH +

Many students combine Drama or Theatre Studies with English and other arts and humanities subjects to provide a complementary package of Advanced level courses for entry into careers in media and the arts. Other complementary subjects include Music, Dance and Art depending on your abilities and career plans. Drama can also be combined with other contemporary subjects such as Media Studies and Art History to provide a combination linked to careers and courses in media, film and cultural studies. However, check your choices carefully as it may be wise to take at least one other traditional AS/A2 level subject (e.g. English) to ensure that a wider range of course and career options is available. Students taking Performing Arts via the vocationally related route will often focus on this area in greater depth and choose only one other subject at AS/A2 level to study alongside it.

The higher education and employment scenes are continually changing due to social, economic and political pressures. This worksheet, therefore, is not a definitive guide to your future career but is more of a prompt to get you thinking about making connections between your choice of Advanced level courses and higher education and career opportunities.

<i>Drama / Theatre Studies Skills</i>		⊗Ways in which you might learn these in the subject:
<i>Research skills:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> researching a topic by finding and choosing the most appropriate sources to use <input type="checkbox"/> analysing written information and drawing out from it the key pieces of information needed <input type="checkbox"/> summarising that information either in writing or verbally	<input type="checkbox"/> reading and analysing plays and scripts <input type="checkbox"/> studying the life and times and dramatic works of different playwrights <input type="checkbox"/> making notes on key scenes, characters and language
<i>Communication skills - written and visual:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> putting across clear and relevant information when writing about a subject <input type="checkbox"/> using visual materials and images to convey design ideas <input type="checkbox"/> adjusting the style of writing to suit the audience or task	<input type="checkbox"/> writing notes, plays, scripts and essays <input type="checkbox"/> producing written pieces aimed at different target audiences
<i>Communication skills - verbal:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> taking part in discussions and making relevant contributions <input type="checkbox"/> role playing and performing before an audience <input type="checkbox"/> making value judgements and giving constructive criticism about your own and others' performances	<input type="checkbox"/> discussing performance art, plays, styles of writing, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> performing character roles, speaking clearly and using accents and dialects
<i>Numerical skills:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> collecting and recording data <input type="checkbox"/> estimating, measuring and calculating physical dimensions, proportions and timescales	<input type="checkbox"/> gathering together information and materials to use in performances <input type="checkbox"/> working out how much paint and other materials are needed to decorate a 'set'
<i>Creative skills:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> assessing the relationship between drama and real life <input type="checkbox"/> selecting materials and techniques to develop different aspects of performance <input type="checkbox"/> performing with sensitivity and perception <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrating an awareness of intellectual, emotional and spiritual needs and the role of drama in meeting those needs	<input type="checkbox"/> learning about drama and performance methods and techniques and trying to develop your own performing abilities <input type="checkbox"/> observing and demonstrating character differences <input type="checkbox"/> learning about back stage work such as lighting, wardrobe, stage management

⊗ Ways in which you might use these in a job:

- dealing with incoming mail and written requests
- researching and preparing a programme of events or activity such as a film festival or conference

- producing letters, memos, reports, presentational materials, notices and handouts
- writing newspaper articles, scripts, plays, etc.

- working as part of a team
- working in public relations and dealing with the press and media
- giving presentations, guided tours or demonstrations

- locating and obtaining settings, costumes, props and other effects
- working with budgets, accounts and financial statements

- thinking creatively and using your imagination when dealing with problems and looking for solutions
- performing in plays, television productions, films, street theatre
- working backstage or as part of a theatre or production company

drama / theatre studies

## ⊗ other skills

In addition to the specific skills you will develop whilst studying Drama / Theatre Studies at Advanced level, you may also develop a number of other skills which will be extremely important, whether you go on to higher education or into employment.

>Improving own learning and performance:

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- dealing with complex subjects
- checking understanding of work set and seeking clarification if unsure
- agreeing and setting targets and planning action
- following a plan to meet targets and making revisions to the plan as necessary
- checking progress with an appropriate person
- identifying any support needed and using it effectively

>Working with others:

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- planning activities with others
- identifying and agreeing targets with others and checking understanding
- identifying and confirming responsibilities within the group
- agreeing working arrangements with those involved

>Working with Information Technology:

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- deciding what, when and whether to use information technology
- selecting and using appropriate technological hardware and software to process data, prepare and present information
- identifying support needed and using it effectively

## Drama / Theatre Studies

# CAREER c-o-n-n-e-c-t-i-o-n-s

There are a number of careers where having an Advanced level qualification in Drama, and all the skills that you develop through studying it, will be very useful. A cursory glance at job advertisement section of 'The Stage' newspaper will show that employers are trying to attract qualified, but out of work actors, for jobs in Telesales and Promotion work where communication skills and an extrovert personality are desirable attributes! You can find out more about these careers by looking up information in your careers library under the Connexions Resources Classification Index (CRCI) codes listed here.

CRCI code	Title
Q	Performing Arts - general
Q	Actor/Actress
Q	Dancer
Q	Entertainer
Q	Lighting Technician
Q	Stage Management
Q	Theatre Director
Q	Stage Lighting
Q	Stage Hand
Q	Make up Artist
Q	Classical Musician
PA	Agent/Manager
Q	Musical Industry Promotions Manager
PA	Video work
PA	Studio Manager (TV/Radio)
PA	Sound Technician
PA	Film Producer/Director
PA	Film Editor
PA	Film Camera Operator

Although it is possible to enter some of these jobs after Advanced level studies, many of these areas recruit people with higher qualifications so you may need to seriously consider going on to higher education.

## 6 ways to check it out

Look at the 2 Skills pages.

- ① Put a cross against those skills you already have.
- ② Tick those skills you would like to gain or develop further.
- ③ Could you see yourself studying this subject at:
 

	Yes	No
Advanced level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Degree level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- ④ Look at the Career Connections section which lists careers related to Drama. Do any of these appeal to you? Why?

- ⑤ Look at the 'Thinking of doing a degree' section which lists degree programmes that are popular with Drama students. Tick those that appeal to you. Pick out your top 3 and explain why.

- ⑥ So what do you think? Are you interested in studying Drama further? Give 3 reasons for your answer:

1  
2  
3

**Remember:** Advanced level course grades can be converted into UCAS points which count towards admission to university so it is important to choose subjects which reflect your interests and abilities.

A = 120 points  
B = 100 points  
C = 80 points  
D = 60 points  
E = 40 points

# Thinking of \* doing a degree?

It should not be assumed that taking Drama or Theatre Studies at Advanced level in itself will provide an advantage in obtaining a place at Drama school. Certainly a number of Drama schools will require Advanced level qualifications for entry and look for relevant subjects such as English, Drama or Theatre Studies, but applicants will be selected on audition as well as basic entry qualifications.

## Degree courses in Drama

A wide range of courses in Drama, Dance and Performing Arts at exist in universities and colleges and competition for places is fierce. These courses include single honours degrees in subjects such as Drama, Dance and Performing Arts and a wide range of combined two subject degree programmes which include Drama, Dance or Performing Arts with other subjects. Titles of courses include:

- Acting
- Arts Management
- Creative Arts
- Creative Studies
- Dance
- Dance Studies
- Dance in the Community
- Design (Theatre Studies)
- Drama and Theatre Studies
- Drama and Theatre Arts
- Drama
- Drama in the Community
- Costume Production
- Lighting Design
- Media Technology
- Movement Studies
- Performance
- Performing Arts
- Stage Management
- Theatre and Performance Studies
- Technical Theatre Arts

There are many degrees where having an Advanced level qualification in Drama may not be of direct relevance but will be useful, however, so you need not be restricted by this list.

Although a number of courses will have a practical component, the aim of the majority of degree programmes is to provide a general arts degree, not professional training in Acting. Other non-degree courses in Acting are available at Drama schools but financial help is limited. It is also possible for students who take an academic degree to follow a practical Acting course as a postgraduate option.

Details of all the degrees available in these areas, and more, can be found on the University Central Admissions System website at [wwwucas.com](http://wwwucas.com)

## Drama/Theatre Studies FACTFILE

### Opportunities for Graduates

Recent statistics show the following trends for graduates from Performing Arts degrees:

- around 62% of graduates went directly into full time employment
- of these nearly 19% went into jobs in the creative and media industries
- careers taken up by these included actors, dancers, entertainers, stage managers, directors, producers, and audio and video technicians
- most graduates entered a wide range of jobs not directly related to their subject – work included marketing, sales, catering and clerical
- nearly 15% of all graduates went into full time further education or training with only a small number taking higher degrees. Most entered vocational education or training courses including teaching, acting, radio and sound production

## ...jobs ✖

*These are some of the jobs that Drama graduates have gone into in recent years ...*

- Actor
- Stage Manager
- Television Researcher
- Box Office Assistant
- Marketing Manager
- Advertising Account Executive
- Retail Manager
- Trainee Chartered Accountant
- Clerical Assistant
- Classroom Assistant



## need to find out more?

You might find these publications useful. Check to see if your Careers Library or local library have copies.

- > **Careers in the Performing Arts**  
*published by VT Careers Management*
- > **Performing Arts Uncovered**  
*published by Trotman*
- > **An Actor's Guide to Getting Work**  
*published by A & C Black*
- > **CRAC Degree Course Guide - Music, Drama and Dance**  
*published by Trotman*

Free information is available from the following organisations. If writing please send a stamped addressed envelope to cover postage:

- ▷ **Arts Council of England**  
14 Great Peter Street  
London SW1P 3NQ  
0845 300 6200  
[www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)
- ▷ **Association of British Theatre Technicians**  
55 Faringdon Road  
London EC1M 3JB  
020 7242 9200  
[www.abtt.org.uk](http://www.abtt.org.uk)
- ▷ **Council for Dance Education and Training**  
Old Brewer's Yard,  
17 - 19 Neal Street  
Covent Garden  
London WC2H 9UY  
020 7240 5703  
Email: [info@cdet.org.uk](mailto:info@cdet.org.uk)  
[www.cdet.org.uk](http://www.cdet.org.uk)
- ▷ **Conference of Drama Schools**  
Executive Secretary CDS  
PO Box 34252  
London  
NW5 1XJ  
Email: [info@cds.drama.ac.uk](mailto:info@cds.drama.ac.uk)  
[www.drama.ac.uk](http://www.drama.ac.uk)
- ▷ **Equity**  
British Actors Equity Association  
Guild House  
Upper St Martins Lane  
London WC2H 9EG  
020 7379 6000  
[www.equity.org.uk](http://www.equity.org.uk)
- ▷ **National Council for Drama Training**  
1-7 Woburn Walk  
London WC1H 0JJ  
020 7387 3650  
Email: [info@ncdt.co.uk](mailto:info@ncdt.co.uk)  
[www.ncdt.co.uk](http://www.ncdt.co.uk)