

AM SYLLABUS 2019

THEATRE & PERFORMANCE

SYLLABUS

**Theatre and Performance
Syllabus**

(Available in September)

Paper 1 – Theatre Events, Practitioners, and Theories (2 hours 30 minutes)

Paper 2 – Theatre and Live Performance (1 hour 45 minutes)

Paper 3 – Theatre Making and Devising (½ hour)

1.0 Introduction

The Theatre and Performance Syllabus gives candidates the opportunity to explore theatrical events as phenomena which involve communities. As an area of study and research, theatre studies investigates the performative nature of these events, how communities express themselves through performance, the contexts and structures within which they operate, and the reasons and outcomes of this behaviour. The field of theatre studies investigates how people relate to their immediate social, political, and religious contexts, and how these in turn inform the performance of events. Theatre studies therefore bridges daily with extra-daily activity, in a process which deals with the aesthetics and ethics of performance.

2.0 Aims

The course in Theatre and Performance should promote:

1. an understanding of theatre practice through performance;
2. a critical understanding of theatre events and the work of theatre practitioners and playwrights in different historical periods;
3. a general understanding of contemporary theatre practices;
4. writing, analytical, and reflective skills;
5. a proactive disposition;
6. individual expressivity, interpretation, and decision making;
7. evaluation skills;
8. group dynamics;
9. engagement with and evaluation of live theatre performances.

3.0 Assessment Objectives

Candidates will be assessed on:

1. a comprehensive knowledge of Western theatre history;
2. the ability to work in a collective and collaborative environment;
3. the ability to create solo performance work;
4. individual creative skills;
5. the ability to document (i) individual, and (ii) group performance progress;
6. the ability to interpret a given text and/or develop original material for performance;
7. the ability to develop informed analysis and evaluation of live theatre performances.

4.0 Subject Content

The Subject Content is determined by the Aims and Assessment Objectives of the syllabus. This is achieved through:

1. knowledge of the development of theatre history;
2. underlying implications of historical development;
3. sensitivity to contemporary theatrical practices;
4. the ability to work with others in a collective environment;
5. the ability to develop solo performance work;
6. awareness of meeting an audience within a performance situation;
7. the ability to engage with, reflect on, and analyse live theatre performances.

5.0 Scheme of Assessment

The A-level Theatre and Performance examination consists of **three** papers:

Paper 1: Theatre Events, Practitioners, and Theories – 35% of the final mark

Paper 2: Theatre and Live Performance – 25% of the final mark

Paper 3: Theatre Making and Devising – 40% of the final mark

Candidates can qualify for Grades A-E ONLY if they satisfy examiners in Papers 1, 2 and 3 of the examination.

5.1 Paper 1: Theatre Events, Practitioners, and Theories

Paper 1 consists of a written paper of two and a half hours (2½ hours) addressing theatre events, the work of practitioners, and theories developed throughout history. It carries 35% of the global mark. There will be four questions of which candidates will be required to answer **three**, in essay form. All questions carry equal marks. Each essay will be marked out of 100 according to the following marking scheme:

Knowledge of theatre history	40 marks
Synoptic level of answer	20 marks
Analytical and reflective skills	15 marks
Use of appropriate terminology	10 marks
Structure and presentation	15 marks

5.2 Paper 2: Theatre and Live Performance

Paper 2 carries 25% of the global mark and consists of a written paper of one hour and forty-five minutes (1¾ hours) dealing with:

- (a) Live Theatre Evaluation
- (b) Text-to-Stage Realisation

Paper 2 is divided in two sections as follows:

Section A: Live Theatre Evaluation will be assessed out of 100 using the following marking scheme:

Understanding of how contemporary theatre conventions and techniques are used.	40 marks
Understanding of how performers, designers, and directors use production values to communicate ideas and meaning to an audience.	40 marks
Knowledge, understanding and appropriate use of specialist vocabulary and terminology related to theatre and performance.	10 marks
Structure and presentation.	10 marks

There will be two questions in Section A, of which candidates will be required to answer **one** in essay form.

Section b: Text-to-Stage Realisation will be assessed out of 100 using the following marking scheme:

Creative decisions and theatrical choices	20 marks
Knowledge of production techniques	20 marks
Use of space, staging, light, and sound	20 marks
Use of costumes and props	20 marks
Use of appropriate terminology	10 marks
Structure and presentation	10 marks

Candidates will be provided with a choice of three extracts, one from each playtext listed in 6.2.2. Candidates are required to choose **one** extract and answer the respective question in essay form.

5.3 Paper 3: Theatre Making and Devising

Paper 3 consists of:

- (a) a Solo Performance, carrying 20% of the global mark; and
- (b) a Devised Collective Performance, carrying 20% of the global mark.

The Solo Performance will be assessed out of 100 using the following marking scheme:

Physical and vocal approach to the work	40 marks
Clarity of structure	15 marks
Content: appropriate use of material/s in performance	15 marks
Use of performance space	10 marks
Interview	5 marks
Logbook	15 marks

The Devised Collective Performance, with global mark 100, will be assessed following the

