

GCE in Performing Arts

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Student Guide

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You will benefit most from a GCE in Performing Arts if you have one or more of the following:

- four GCSEs at grade A*-C which might include GCSE in Drama and/or Music at grades A*- C
- other level 2 qualifications such as Intermediate GNVQ in Performing Arts; Edexcel BTEC First Diploma in Performing Arts
- grade related qualifications in Dance, Drama and Music

You should also have an interest in developing broad skills, knowledge and understanding based on the practical needs and concerns of the performing arts industry.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

You will enjoy this course if you wish to develop:

- your own skills, with an opportunity to specialise in either performance or production support
- an understanding of all aspects of performing arts
- an insight into the nature of the performing arts industry: employment opportunities, constraints and the issues facing professionals working within the sector
- a knowledge of the working methods used by professionals: as an individual in teams, with clients, commissioners and audiences

Is the qualification structured like other GCEs?

Yes, the qualification has an AS/A2 structure. AS is short for Advanced Subsidiary. This is the first half of the Advanced GCE course. It is a stepping stone to the full Advanced GCE qualification. You can take the AS on its own, if you and your teacher agree that this is best for you. You can also decide at the end of the AS course to continue with the course and take the A2 units for the full Advanced GCE qualification.

You can study for:

- A Single Award AS GCE (3units): Units 1, 2, 3
- A Single Award Advanced GCE (6 units): Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and a choice of either Unit 5 or Unit 6

What will I learn about on this course?

In the AS units you will learn about:

- Exploring Skills for Performance - Unit 1
- Planning for an Event - Unit 2
- Performing to a Commission - Unit 3

In the A2 units you will learn about:

- Employment Opportunities in the Performing Arts - Unit 4
- Advanced Performance Practice - Unit 5
- Advanced Production Practice - Unit 6
- Production Delivery - Unit 7

How will I be assessed?

You will be encouraged to demonstrate your skills and talent by being assessed in practical ways with no written exams. You will be assessed solely through portfolio and performance by your teacher. Your work will be moderated by a visiting moderator.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

The GCE in Performing Arts qualifies for UCAS points so if you complete it successfully you could move on to study for a degree or BTEC Higher National Diploma in Performing Arts. You could also go on to relevant employment.