

Theatre Diploma Programme

Nature of the Course

Theatre is a composite art that is forever evolving in new forms. It nourishes, sustains and extends the human spirit. It is a means of exploring society and relationships within it. Through it, there may emerge possibilities for individual and communal understanding. Theatre is about transformation. It is the application, through play, of energy and imagination to frame, reflect, expose, critique and speculate. These activities should engage and develop the sensibilities of all the students who participate in them. By studying theatre, and engaging with it practically, students will discover how elusive, fascinating and varied theatre can be.

Difference between SL and HL

Due to the nature of the theatre course, there may be no great difference in the complexity or artistic merit of the work produced by students at SL and HL. However, the difference in recommended teaching times at SL and HL signals a clear distinction between the demands made on students. It is expected that students at HL will use the extra time available to develop their personal research and practice in theatre, and to extend their understanding of the ideas, practices and concepts encountered during the course.

Theatre and the MYP

The arts subject area (which includes performing arts) in the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) prepares students for the Diploma Programme theatre course by:

- giving them a knowledge and understanding of theatre as an art form across different cultures and historical periods
- giving them the opportunity to develop and apply their skills in creating and performing theatre
- giving them an understanding of the importance of evaluation and reflection during the process of creating theatre and the ability to evaluate their finished works
- developing in them the attitudes and approaches necessary to understand, appreciate and explore a variety of forms, practices and traditions.

Performing arts in the MYP engages students in an active relationship with theatre and encourages autonomous learning and exploration—something that is further developed at Diploma Programme level. It encourages the growth of creative, reflective and communication skills through practical work and the development of artistic understanding. Emphasis is placed on the artistic process and the student's understanding of this process as an essential component to artistic development through continuous planning, goal setting, reflection and evaluation. This ability to reflect on and evaluate both their own work and that of

other practitioners and artists is an essential skill at Diploma Programme level.

Aims of the course

The aims of the **theatre** course at HL and SL are to enable students to:

- experience and participate in a wide and varied range of theatre activities and develop proficiency in more than one area of theatre technique
- become familiar with forms of theatre from their own and different cultures
- explore different theatre traditions in their historical contexts
- develop academic skills appropriate for the study and understanding of theatre
- become reflective and critical practitioners in theatre
- develop the confidence to explore, to experiment and to work individually and collaboratively on innovative projects, which should involve challenging established notions and conventions of theatre
- understand the dynamic, holistic and evolving nature of theatre and the interdependencies of all aspects of this art form.

Core syllabus (HL and SL)

The theatre core syllabus at HL and SL consists of three interrelated areas. Students are required to explore these three areas from the perspective of dramaturg, director, performer, group ensemble, production team and spectator.

Theatre in the making

The focus of theatre in the making is on the process of theatre making rather than the presentation of theatre. It encompasses the acquisition and development of **all** skills required to create, present and observe theatre. It is **exploratory** in nature.

Theatre in performance

The focus of theatre in performance is on the application of skills developed in theatre in the making. This involves students in various aspects of presenting theatre, where their practical skills can be applied in different roles (as performers and as part of the production team), while also building upon the knowledge they have acquired in other areas.

Theatre in the world

The focus of theatre in the world is on a practical and theoretical exploration of a range of theatre traditions and cultural practices around the world. It allows students to explore the origins and traditions of a variety of theatre conventions and practices from diverse cultural and historical contexts.

Assessment Outline

50%

External assessment

25%

Research investigation

Students are required to produce a research investigation of 2,000–2,500 /1500-

1750 words with supporting visual materials.

25%

Practical performance proposal

Students are required to produce a proposal of 250 words with supporting visual materials and a report of 1,000–1,250 words.

50%

Internal assessment

25%

Theatre performance and production presentation

Students are required to do an oral presentation lasting 20/ 30 minutes with 7–10 images.

25%

Independent project portfolio

Students are required to produce a portfolio of 2,000/ 3,000 words on their independent project and its connection to their experiences in the core syllabus.