



# **DRAMA**

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General course

**Year 12 syllabus – What’s changing: Rationale and Aims  
For teaching in 2027**

## **Acknowledgement of Country**

Kaya. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) acknowledges that our offices are on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar and that we deliver our services on the country of many traditional custodians and language groups throughout Western Australia. The Authority acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respect to Elders past and present.

## **Background**

As part of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) Refreshment for reviewing the nomenclature of courses, the Authority has updated the rationale and aims of each syllabus.

The revised rationale and aims are aligned with the mapping of the general capabilities to provide clear connections between the rationale, aims and syllabus content. The rationale outlines what the subject is about and why it is important. It describes what students can expect to study in the course, along with the knowledge, skills and understandings they will develop throughout the course. It also explains how these can be applied in everyday life and references potential future pathways, outlining how students might connect what they learn in the course to further education, training and employment opportunities.

## **Important information**

### **WACE Refreshment: Reviewing the nomenclature of courses**

This document contains information that will be included in the syllabus effective from 1 January 2027.

Users of the syllabus are responsible for checking its currency.

Syllabuses are formally reviewed by the Authority on a cyclical basis, typically every five years.

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## Rationale

The Drama General course introduces students to the world of professional theatre. They not only have the opportunity to step into the lives of characters through originally devised work or published scripts, but also learn the skills of directing and selected elements of theatre design such as costume, lighting, set and sound. As well as developing their artistic skills, students independently build their confidence, adaptability and teamwork through creative collaboration activities.

Students in the course build their understanding of drama language, which includes the fundamental building blocks for developing skills as an actor; contextual knowledge, to understand the background of a character or story; and the technical aspects of staging a production. The course commences with a focus on representational drama and then transitions to presentational drama. Students investigate the pioneering theatre practitioners of these two styles which underpin contemporary theatre performances.

Students learn performance skills through exploring the elements of drama. They become confident in the application of creative theatre design choices to maximise the drama experience, both for creatives involved in the process and for the audience.

Students in the course study both Australian and international texts, enacting global stories which build their intercultural awareness. By reinterpreting and retelling stories, they gain a deeper understanding of and empathy for diverse human experiences. The course also develops students' interpersonal skills including creative problem-solving, adaptability through collaborating and communicating in teams, and leadership.

The course equips students with a wide range of skills that open doors to opportunities such as tertiary education in performing arts, media, education and event management and career pathways in theatre, film and television. Students also develop transferable skills that are valuable in a wide range of areas such as teaching, corporate training, communications, marketing and customer-facing roles.

## Aims

The Drama General course aims to develop students’:

- ability to create, interpret and present ideas
- skills in techniques, processes, conventions and technologies
- ability to present drama for specific purposes, audience and spaces
- understanding of the role of drama in society
- ability to reflect on and evaluate drama
- transferable skills in creative problem-solving, collaboration, innovation, flexibility, social skills, self-regulation and leadership.