



# **DRAMA**

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ATAR 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 ATAR course engages students in a dynamic and diverse art form that encompasses storytelling, play, theatre, film, television, festivals, performance art and interactive media. Throughout history, drama has played an important role in society, conveying stories and events and sharing ideas and feelings. Directors, performers and theatre designers can communicate messages in engaging ways, both entertaining and informing their audience.

As part of the practical learning in the course, students devise and perform both original and published works. They explore drama forms, styles and conventions and study respected theatre practitioners' approaches to character realisation as well as the reinterpretation of drama performances for today's audiences. Students extend the breadth of their drama skills by exploring processes of advanced improvisation, developing new creative insights to reinterpret and stage work. Both independently and collaboratively, students analyse set texts, consolidating their understanding through performance opportunities culminating in solo monologue presentations.

Beyond the opportunities to stage new and published script works, students learn about the historical, social and cultural contexts which have influenced artists throughout history and continue to do so. They learn high-order performance skills related to the elements of drama and become proficient in the application of creative theatre design choices which work together to maximise the drama experience, both for creatives involved in the process and for the audience.

Students in the course develop skills that benefit them beyond the theatre. They 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.

While the course prepares students for post-school education and career opportunities in theatre and the performing arts, it also provides transferable skills that are valuable in many areas, such as media, teaching, game development, event management, corporate training, communications, marketing and customer-facing roles.

## Aims

The Drama ATAR course aims to develop students’:

- ability to articulate and explore ideas
- skills in production and performance
- ability to create drama for a range of purposes, audiences and contexts
- understanding of the contextual relationships of drama
- capacity to analyse and evaluate drama in performance
- transferable skills in creative problem-solving, collaboration, innovation, flexibility, social skills, self-regulation and leadership.