

Welcome to Drama and Theatre Studies A Level

Recommended Resources:

Please explore and become familiar with the following websites:-

<http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>

<http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/discover-more/backstage/videos>

<http://www.stagework.org.uk/stageworks/index.html>

<https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/series/national-theatre-collection-iid-190464>

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Task 1 – Set Text Written Exam

Attached to this site is a Theatre Studies exam question paper, and insert so that you can see the type of questions that will be asked of you. As you will hopefully see, it echoes the GCSE paper - basically you answer questions on set texts and then also write an essay based on a Live Production Seen.

Please look at the questions to see what type of thing is asked of you. DON'T PANIC at this stage! You don't need to answer anything. I just want you to realise that you'll be approaching questions from the perspectives of performers, directors and designers (costume, lighting, sound and set) and get some sense of how the questions are posed.

While we will read the plays together, I am sending you a link of the film of The Glass Menagerie (our set text for Section B) that I would like you to watch in advance of September - it is a television production, not live play sadly, but it will give you a real sense of the period, design elements, society, costume and themes which are vital that you start to picture and understand.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDPMBDiwLOM>

Task 2: Practitioner Research and Written Task

I want you to research and explore some of the following practitioners and theatre companies:

Konstantin Stanislavski, Bertolt Brecht, Steven Berkoff, Katie Mitchell, Antonin Artaud, Complicite', Frantic Assembly, Kneehigh, Shared Experience, DV8, Trestle Theatre Company.

Having had a brief look, pick two in particular and then create a word document or power point presentation that provides details of:

- the aims and intentions of the practitioner or company and their stylistic choices – what features would you specifically expect to see in a Shared Experience piece or Brecht piece for example?

Please avoid giving me historical information or where the company is based. I want you to provide an understanding of the style, look, feel, features and intentions of the practitioner. The Digital Theatre plus site and DramaOnline Library have lots of resources if you're struggling

Task 3: Live Theatre Review and Essay Task

I would like you to watch [One Man Two Guvnors](#) as an example of a modernised piece of Commedia dell' Arte (Italian Comedy). Use the link and password below and enter [One Man Two Guvnors](#) into the search engine and click on 'production', or scroll down the available list.

Having watched it, you need to write a 500 word response minimum to the following question:

*Outline the ways in which **one or more** performers' physical skills contributed to the overall success of **one** live production that you have seen and assess the effectiveness of their performance(s) at particular moments.*

Task 4: Live Theatre Review and Design Task

I would like you to watch the production of Frankenstein on the link below. It is an amazing piece, but has some sexual and violent content so don't watch it with younger siblings. You may have studied this text at GCSE or have watched clips from this production before, but I would like you to focus on the inventive set design, staging, and use of lighting, sound, make up and special effects.

As a result, please create a powerpoint or prezzi presentation that includes some images from the production, along with your notes or observations.

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