

# A Level Drama and Theatre Studies

## Welcome to the wonderful and creative world of A Level Drama.

In order to get ready for the creative challenges of an A Level Drama course you will need to develop your knowledge and understanding of a range of playwrights and practitioners.

For Component 1 we will be studying the plays [A Servant to Two Masters](#) by Carlo Goldoni (translated by Lee Hall) and [Yerma](#) by Federigo Garcia Lorca (edited by Gwynne Edwards). You will need to familiarise yourself with Commedia dell'Arte for ASTTM and 1930s Spain for Yerma.

### The Course:

Component 1: Drama and theatre
<b>What's assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre</li><li>• Study of two set plays, one chosen from List A, one chosen from List B</li><li>• Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers</li></ul>
<b>How it's assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Written exam: 3 hours</li><li>• Open book</li><li>• 80 marks</li><li>• 40% of A-level</li></ul>
<b>Questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Section A: one question (from a choice) on one of the set plays from List A (25 marks)</li><li>• Section B: one three part question on a given extract from one of the set plays from List B (30 marks)</li><li>• Section C: one question (from a choice) on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production (25 marks)</li></ul>

Component 2: Creating original drama (practical)
<p><b>What's assessed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Process of creating devised drama</li> <li>• Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer, designer or director)</li> </ul> <p>Devised piece must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed practitioner</p>
<p><b>How it's assessed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working notebook (40 marks)</li> <li>• Devised performance (20 marks)</li> <li>• 60 marks in total</li> <li>• 30% of A-level</li> </ul>
<p>This component is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.</p>



Component 3: Making theatre (practical)
<p><b>What's assessed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts (Extract 1, 2 and 3) each taken from a different play</li> </ul> <p>Methodology of a prescribed practitioner must be applied to Extract 3</p> <p>Extract 3 is to be performed as a final assessed piece (students may contribute as performer, designer or director)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflective report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts</li> </ul>
<p><b>How it's assessed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance of Extract 3 (40 marks)</li> <li>• Reflective report (20 marks)</li> <li>• 60 marks in total</li> <li>• 30% of A-level</li> </ul>
<p>This component is marked by AQA.</p>

## Transition Tasks:

### Live Theatre Evaluation

Over the summer holidays, visit at least one live theatre performance. If this is not possible, then you can use Drama Online and login to watch an online performance using the following login details:

<https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/>

Username: **FOJHPE**

Password: **QUIPK**

**Suggested performances:**

[A View From the Bridge](#)

[Hedda Gabler](#)

[Frankenstein](#)

[The Crucible](#)

**Task 1: Complete a Live Theatre Review on the performance you choose to watch.**

Your live theatre review must include the following;

1. A description and explanation of the work of actors, designers and directors in the piece of live theatre.
2. An analysis of the specific skills of these 'theatre makers' in relation to what they wanted to communicate in the piece of live theatre.
3. An evaluation of how successful the theatre makers have been in their work.

To allow you to fully be able to respond to the piece of theatre you have watched you will need to research around the show and understand what the director was trying to communicate with their interpretation on stage.

**Task 2: Practitioner / Theatre Company Research**

Your second task is a written research task and should be approximately 1000 words.

You are to research the following drama practitioners / theatre companies and describe / discuss the main characteristics of their approach to performance. You should then choose one to research in further detail and create a presentation about their work.

Paper Birds - <https://www.thepaperbirds.com>

Frantic Assembly - <https://www.franticassembly.co.uk/>

Bertolt Brecht - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zwmvd2p/revision/1>

Punchdrunk - <https://www.punchdrunk.com/>

Konstantin Stanislavski -

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zxn4mp3/revision/1>

Splendid Productions - <https://splendidproductions.co.uk/>

**Part 1: Discuss the main characteristics of each practitioner giving examples of their work and how it has influenced modern drama. (500 – 1000 words)**

**Part 2: Choose one practitioner to complete further research and create a presentation about their work.**

### **Wider Reading:**

**Reading plays and immersing yourself in a wide range of drama is always useful.**

The following texts (plays and textbooks) could be of use.

Sophocles (adapted by Don Taylor) – Antigone

Polly Stenham – That Face

Mark Ravenhill - Over There

Henrik Ibsen – A Doll's House

Anton Chekhov – The Cherry Orchard

Arthur Miller – The Crucible

Franz Kafka – Metamorphosis

Oscar Wilde - The Importance of being Earnest

Tennessee Williams - A Streetcar Named Desire

Bertolt Brecht – Caucasian Chalk Circle

Timberlake Wertenbaker – Our Country's Good