

# Haydon School

## Drama and Theatre

Transition Material for A Level



This pack contains a programme of activities and resources to prepare you to start an A Level in Drama and Theatre in September.

Please ensure you complete all tasks over the summer.

## **Contents**

1. Course overview
2. Suggested reading
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5. Go and.....

# 1. Course Overview

## Component 1: Drama and theatre

### What's assessed

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
- Study of two set plays, one chosen from List A – A Servant to Two Masters, one chosen from List B – Our Country's Good
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

### How it's assessed

Written exam: 3 hours

Open book

80 marks

40% of A-level

### Questions

Section A: one question (from a choice) on one of the set plays from List A – A Servant to Two Masters (25 marks)

Section B: one three part question on a given extract from one of the set plays from List B – Our Country's Good (30 marks)

Section C: one question (from a choice) on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production (25 marks)

## Component 2: Creating original drama (practical)

### What's assessed

Process of creating devised drama

Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer, designer or director)

Devised piece must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed practitioner

### How it's assessed

Working notebook (40 marks)

Devised performance (20 marks)

60 marks in total

30% of A-level

This component is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

### Component 3: Making theatre (practical)

#### What's assessed

Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts (Extract 1, 2 and 3) each taken from a different play

Methodology of a prescribed practitioner must be applied to Extract 3

Extract 3 is to be performed as a final assessed piece (students may contribute as performer, designer or director)

Reflective report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts

#### How it's assessed

Performance of Extract 3 (40 marks)

Reflective report (20 marks)

60 marks in total

30% of A-level

This component is marked by AQA.



## 2. Suggested Reading List

### Books on Theatre and Acting

- Year of the King by Antony Sher
- An Actor Prepares by Constantin Stanislavski
- Building a Character by Constantin Stanislavski
- Creating a Role by Constantin Stanislavski
- On Theatre by Bertolt Brecht
- The Empty Space by Peter Brook
- The Theatre and Its Double by Antonin Artaud
- Towards a Poor Theatre by Jerzy Grotowski
- The Moving Body (le Corps Poétique): Teaching Creative Theatre by Jacques Lecoq
- Impro: Improvisation and the Theatre by Keith Johnstone
- The Director's Craft: A Handbook for Theatre by Katie Mitchell
- The Frantic Assembly Book of Devising Theatre by Scott Graham and Steven Hoggett

### Key Playwrights

- Samuel Beckett
- Steven Berkoff
- Jez Butterworth
- Edward Bond
- Caryl Churchill
- April De Angelis
- Shelagh Delaney
- Sarah Kane
- Arthur Miller
- John Osborne

- Harold Pinter
- Lucy Prebble
- Nina Raine
- William Shakespeare
- Polly Stenham
- Simon Stephens
- Laura Wade

### 3. Independent Research Tasks

#### *Task 1:*

Research the following drama practitioners and choose three to create a detailed presentation on.

You should include as much information as possible about their biographical details, theatrical career and most importantly working practices.

You must not copy and paste the information.

- Stanislavski
- Brecht
- LeCoq
- Peter Brook
- Frantic Assembly
- Katie Mitchell
- Kneehigh Theatre Company
- DV8

#### *Task 2:*

Watch a live performance and write a review of it.

Look at the following websites to help you write a review:

<https://www.thestage.co.uk/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/theatre+tone/reviews>

<https://www.timeout.com/london/theatre/london-theatre-reviews>

#### *Task 3:*

Read at least three plays from the key playwrights list.

#### *Task 4:*

Follow as many theatre companies as possible on facebook/twitter/Instagram

E.g. The National Theatre, The Old Vic, The RSC, The Young Vic, The Donmar Warehouse...

## 4. Key Skills Required for an A Level Drama and Theatre Student

### You must:

- Be willing to work in a group
- Share your ideas with others
- Listen effectively
- Not be afraid to work hard
- Enact on feedback
- Take the initiative in all areas of your practice
- Undertake wider reading around the subject
- Write and refine a series of essay
- Have a very good pass mark in English
- Go to the theatre/live performances
- Show ability to make links between drama theory and practice
- Undertake group rehearsal in your own time

## 5. Go and....

- Get involved. Join a theatre group and start performing.
- Experience. Try and organise some work experience in live performance venue or with an actor/director or teacher.
- Talk. Get yourself to some live performances over the summer. There are lots of free events around London.
- Watch. There are loads of drama performances and documentaries that you can watch freely available. Don't limit yourself to styles you already like, you may surprise yourself with something new.
- Read up on your drama theory. You will need to apply a range of practitioner styles to your performance work.

