



A-LEVEL DRAMA and Theatre

Pearson Edexcel



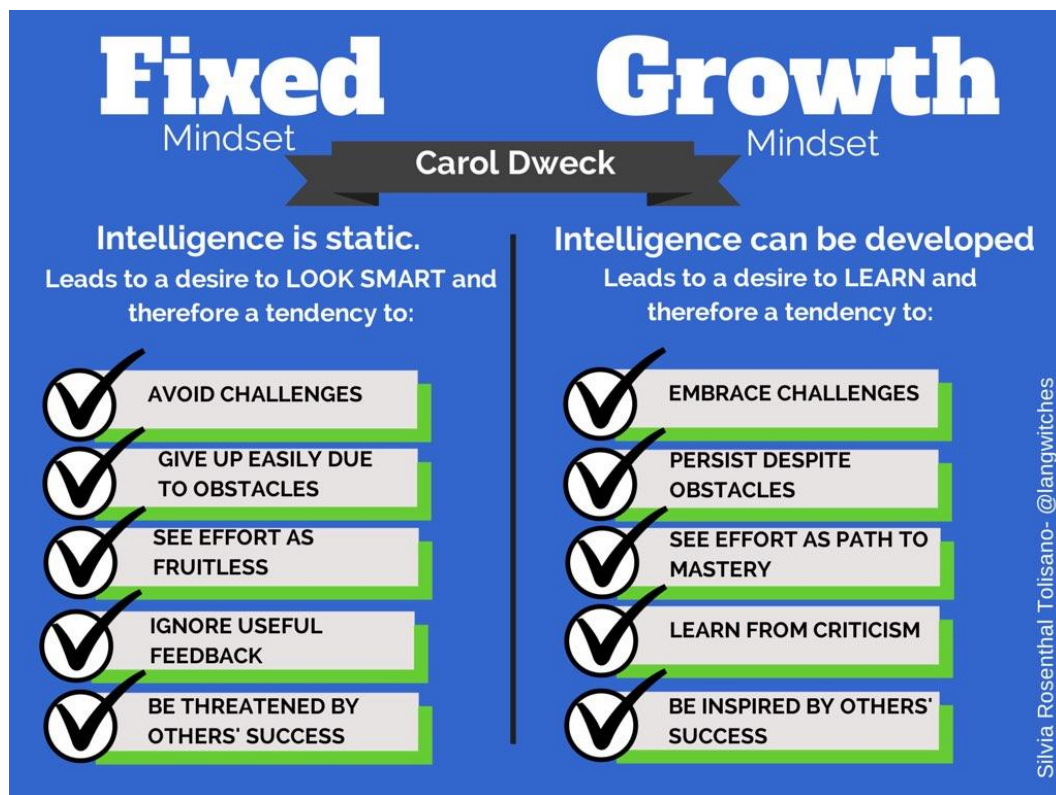
"We must all do theatre, to find out who we are, and to discover who we could become."

—Augusto Boal



You will find in this booklet some information about the course, the three different components and your gap tasks to help you prepare for your A Level course in September. Enjoy!

We want to treat you like young adults in the 6th form and for you to take on the responsibility of helping to lead and direct Drama clubs for younger students and school productions. To be successful in lessons and extracurricular activities you need to have a growth mindset:



The stage is not merely the meeting place of all the arts but is also the return of art to life. Oscar Wilde

A talent for drama is not a talent for writing but an ability to articulate human relationships. Gore Vidal

YEAR 11 GAP Tasks

Watch as much 'live theatre' as you can.

There are lots of shows being released online every week, but you can log onto the **National Theatre Collection via our school access.**

Look at the 'How to log onto the National Theatre Collection' Power point which is on the VLE in Drama > student resources > Y12 > National Theatre Log in Details folder

The username and password are very sensitive so be careful!!

There are 30 productions – Top picks are:

- Antigone (one of our set texts)
- Medea
- Frankenstein
- Jayne Eyre
- Yerma
- Small Island
- Translations
- A Streetcar Named Desire

All are good but I would watch these first and if you are missing Macbeth from English Lit there is a production for you to watch plus lots of Shakespeare!

Research Tasks:

One of the big differences between GCSE and A level is the study of key practitioners. You need to understand their ideas and theories but importantly be able to use them to develop and influence your own work.

Research and make notes on the following practitioners:

- Brecht
- Artaud
- Stanislavski
- Boal

Research and make notes on the following companies and their unique styles. You might be able to find discussions/webinars/interviews online at the moment with the artistic directors discuss their work. The companies are putting up new information every week on their websites.

- Frantic Assembly
- Complicite
- Punchdrunk
- Kneehigh

Some useful websites:

- www.franticassembly.co.uk
- www.punchdrunk.org.uk
- www.kneehigh.co.uk
- www.complicite.org
- www.trestle.co.uk
- www.dv8.co.uk
- www.essentialdrama.com (University of Warwick guides to a number of practitioners)
- www.bl.uk (British Library discovering literature – articles on practitioners and theatre genres)

Reading list:

- Any plays you can get hold of!!! Read anything and everything. You don't have to like it just have an opinion on it. If you can watch a production of anything you have watched even better as you can see how the director has interpreted the play. Something you will have to do as part of your A level course.

If you can read any of the texts below particularly the set texts that would be a real bonus and really put you on the front foot for next year!

Set Texts:

- *Antigone* – NHB classics – Sophocles, translated by Don Taylor
- *Machinal* – Sophie Treadwell

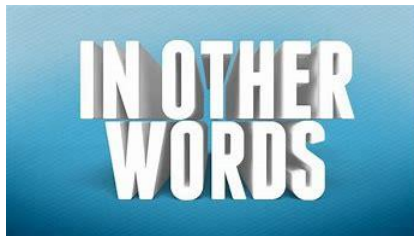
Theory Texts:

- Greek Theatre Performance: An Introduction by David Wiles
- Guide to Greek Theatre and Drama by Kenneth McLeish
- An Actor Prepares by Constantin Stanislavski
- The complete Brecht toolkit by Stephen Unwin
- The complete Stanislavski toolkit by Stephen Unwin
- The Theatre and its double by Antonin Artaud
- Edexcel A Level Drama and Theatre Student Book (2016) by John Davey and Phil Cleaves

What will I do in A level Drama?

There are three components (just like at GCSE!)

Component 1: Devising (*Component Code: 9DR0/01)
Coursework 40% of the qualification 80 marks
Content overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Devise an original performance piece.• Use one key extract from a performance text and a theatre practitioner as stimuli.• Centre choice of text and practitioner.• Performer or designer routes available.
Assessment overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AO1, AO2 and AO4 are assessed.• Internally assessed and externally moderated.• There are two parts to the assessment:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) a portfolio (60 marks, 40 marks assessing AO1 and 20 marks assessing AO4)<ul style="list-style-type: none">o the portfolio submission recommendations are:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– can be handwritten/typed evidence between 2500–3000 words or recorded/verbal evidence between 12–14 minutes or– can be a combination of handwritten/typed evidence (between 1250–1500 words) and recorded/verbal evidence (between 6–7 minutes).2) the devised performance/design realisation (20 marks, assessing AO2).



- A group devised performance - stimulus is an extract from a published play and your work must be influenced by a chosen practitioner
- Practical performance in your devised piece = 10% of your grade 20/80 marks
- Written portfolio = 30% of your grade 60/80 marks
- Portfolio is similar to the one you completed at GCSE with 6 questions but this time the word count is 2500-3000 words¹
- Your work will be internally moderated by the department and externally moderated by an examiner
- You will have completed this unit by the end of Y12

Component 2: Text in Performance (*Component Code: 9DR0/02)

Coursework

20% of the qualification

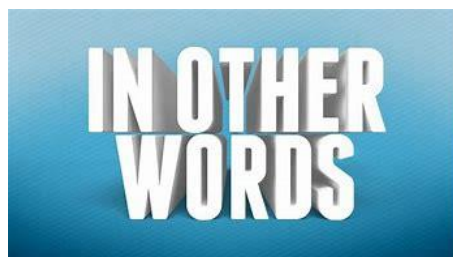
60 marks

Content overview

- A group performance/design realisation of **one key extract** from a performance text.
- A monologue or duologue performance/design realisation from **one key extract** from a different performance text.
- Centre choice of performance texts.

Assessment overview

- AO2 is assessed.
- Externally assessed by a visiting examiner.
- Group performance/design realisation: worth 36 marks.
- Monologue or duologue/design realisation: worth 24 marks.



- A monologue or a duologue 40% of C2 24/60 marks
- A group scripted performance 60% of C2 36/60 marks
- Assessed by an external examiner in March of Y13

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (*Paper Code: 9DR0/03)

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes

40% of the qualification

80 marks

Content overview

- Live theatre evaluation – choice of performance.
- Practical exploration and study of a **complete performance text** – focusing on how this can be realised for performance.
- Practical exploration and interpretation of **another complete performance text**, in light of a chosen **theatre practitioner** – focusing on how this text could be reimagined for a contemporary audience.
- Centre choice of 15 performance texts from two lists on the next page.
- Choice of eight practitioners.

Assessment overview

Section A: Live Theatre Evaluation

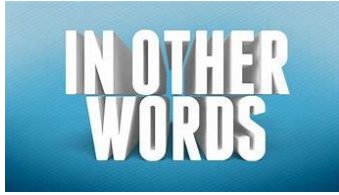
- 20 marks, assessing AO4.
- Students answer one extended response question from a choice of two requiring them to analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance they have seen.
- Students are allowed to bring in theatre evaluation notes of up to a maximum of 500 words.

Section B: Page to Stage: Realising a Performance Text

- 36 marks, assessing AO3.
- Students answer two extended response questions based on an **unseen extract** from the performance text they have studied.
- Students will demonstrate how they, as theatre makers, intend to realise the extract in performance.
- Students answer from the perspective of a performer and a designer.
- Performance texts for this section are not allowed in the examination as the extracts will be provided.

Section C: Interpreting a Performance Text

- 24 marks, assessing AO3.
- Students will answer one extended response question from a choice of two based on an **unseen named section** from their chosen performance text
- Students will demonstrate how their re-imagined production concept will communicate ideas to a contemporary audience.
- Students will also need to outline how the work of their chosen theatre practitioner has influenced their overall production concept and demonstrate an awareness of the performance text in its original performance conditions.
- Students **must** take in clean copies of their performance texts for this section, but no other printed materials.



- Written paper – 2 hours 30 minutes
- Section A – Theatre Review question on a piece of live theatre you have been to see
- Section B – two questions on an extract from *Machinal* by Sophie Treadwell
- Section C – one question on *Antigone* by Sophocles



