

Year 12 A Level Edexcel Drama and Theatre

I am very excited to see you all in September for us to start your A Level journey together. These tasks are designed to help you bridge your knowledge and understanding between GCSE and A Level and put us ahead of the game.

TASK 1

As part of the course, we study and explore a range of set practitioners. These will heavily influence your practical work and your exam work. If you have studied GCSE Drama, we have touched upon a few of these, however there are ones you would not have heard of. We need develop our understanding and appreciation and study these in depth. You are going to research each of the practitioners recommended by Edexcel. You can present the information in any format you like (notes, poster, leaflet, collage, etc as long as it is useful for you).

Task 1a: Practitioners

Below is the full list of Practitioners recommended by our exam board.

Constantin Stanislavski	Punchdrunk	Kneehigh	Complicite
Steven Berkoff	Joan Littlewood	Bertolt Brecht	Antonin Artaud

Answer the following 2 questions:

1. What is a practitioner?
2. What is the difference between style/genre?

Task 1b: Research on a Practitioner *Constantin Stanislavski*

You should include, where possible a detailed summary of the following:

- Information about their Life
- The main ideas and theories / methods and practice (consider what or who they have been influenced by as well as what they were going against).
- Examples of plays they have written / directed / performed in.

Task 1c: Research on a Practitioner - *Punchdrunk*

You should include, where possible a detailed summary of the following:

- Information about their Life
- The main ideas and theories / methods and practice (consider what or who they have been influenced by as well as what they were going against).
- Examples of plays they have written / directed / performed in.

Task 1d: Research on a Practitioner - *Kneehigh*

- Information about their Life
- The main ideas and theories / methods and practice (consider what or who they have been influenced by as well as what they were going against).
- Examples of plays they have written / directed / performed in.

Task 1e: Research on a Practitioner - *Complicite*

You should include, where possible a detailed summary of the following:

- Information about their Life
- The main ideas and theories / methods and practice (consider what or who they have been influenced by as well as what they were going against).
- Examples of plays they have written / directed / performed in.

Task 1f: Research on a Practitioner – *Steven Berkoff*

You should include, where possible a detailed summary of the following:

- Information about their Life
- The main ideas and theories / methods and practice (consider what or who they have been influenced by as well as what they were going against).
- Examples of plays they have written / directed / performed in.

Task 1g: Research on a Practitioner – *Joan Littlewood*

You should include, where possible a detailed summary of the following:

- Information about their Life
- The main ideas and theories / methods and practice (consider what or who they have been influenced by as well as what they were going against).
- Examples of plays they have written / directed / performed in.

Task 1h: Research on a Practitioner – Bertolt Brecht

You are to make a research document on the practitioner above. This could be in any format you wish- notes, poster, leaflet, power point, collage. You should include, where possible a detailed summary of the following:

- Information about their Life
- The main ideas and theories / methods and practice (consider what or who they have been influenced by as well as what they were going against).
- Examples of plays they have written / directed / performed in.

Task 1i: Research on a Practitioner – Anton Ataud

You should include, where possible a detailed summary of the following:

- Information about their Life
- The main ideas and theories / methods and practice (consider what or who they have been influenced by as well as what they were going against).
- Examples of plays they have written / directed / performed in.

Task 1j: Workshop preparation

Choose one of the practitioners you have researched.

Create a 10 minute workshop that you lead in September.

The workshop will last between 10-15 minutes and explore a key element of practice that you have discovered about your practitioner. This could be in the form of a practical workshop, written task, visual exercise or scripted piece.

TASK 2:

We will be studying the following plays for Component 3.

'Equus' by Peter Shaffer

'Lysistrata' by Aristophanes.

I recommend you purchase the Equus text as you can make notes on it. (if this is not possible, please let us know asap and we can arrange access to these). I will provide you with a copy of Lysistrata.

There is also a study guide which is not only useful with regards to revision but also essential in support with note taking/portfolio writing and practitioner information. I use this a lot of my teaching so reference it regularly. I have listed the ISBN links below for each text:

- Equus, Peter Shaffer (Penguin Classics) Paperback – ISBN 9780141188904
- Edexcel AS and A Level Drama Study Guide Paperback, [Rhianna Elsdon](#), [Alicia Pope](#), [David Porter](#), [Lucy Ellen Rix](#) – ISBN 978-1785581748

Task 2a: Research on set text 1 - Equus

Carry out research on the first set text to help you understand the genre and the style of the playwright.

You need to find the following information:

- When the play was written
- Why the play was written (generally playwrights have a drive to write about certain things)
- Information about the playwright
- Information about the Social, Cultural and Historical aspects the time the play was written
- A brief overview of the plot.
- A List of the main themes that run throughout the text