



## A Level Drama and Theatre Studies

Subject Leader: Mrs C Bugg

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### Transition tasks (complete in any order!):

#### 1. Purchase and read the following texts:

**'The Glass Menagerie' by Tennessee Williams.**

The Glass Menagerie (Penguin, 2009, ISBN: 978-0141190266)

**'The Caucasian Chalk Circle' by Bertolt Brecht.**

The Caucasian Chalk Circle (Penguin 2007, ISBN: 9780141189161)

#### 2. Based on characters from 'Caucasian Chalk Circle':

Prepare a **presentation** (at least two minutes long) explaining **how** you would **perform** the role of 'Grusha' in Episode 1 page 17-18 in order to bring the characters to life for the audience.

**Top tip** – Pick **6 key quotes and** explain how you would bring the lines to life as an actor. Consider what **performance skills** you will use: *tone of voice, pitch, pace of line delivery, volume, posture, poise, gestures, eye contact, proxemics and stage positioning*. What impact do you intend each line to have on the **audience**?

#### 3. Prepare a **performance monologue**. This is Grusha's monologue on P.34. Be prepared to perform this in September 2023.

Alongside this, prepare a **two-minute presentation** explaining **how** you have performed the monologue to portray the character to the audience. **Top tip** – Pick **6 key lines** from the monologue and explain how you would bring the lines to life as an actor. Consider what **performance skills** you will use: *tone of voice, pitch, pace of line delivery, volume, posture, poise, gestures, eye contact and stage positioning*.

#### 3. Complete **detailed contextual research** into the following areas of The Caucasian Chalk Circle:

- Brecht and his life in Germany
- Brecht's experiences during WW2

- Why was Brecht a Marxist?
- Why did Brecht loath a capitalist society?
- Communistic ideologies
- Brecht's Epic Theatre and his theatrical aims
- Solomonic Wisdom
- Seven Sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church

For the above research, dedicate at least x1 page of A4 to each bullet point of research.

4. Complete **detailed research** into TWO of the following **theatre practitioners/theatre makers and theatre companies** (In Y12 you will choose a practitioner and in a group, you will form a theatre company and create a devised theatre performance inspired by the work of your chosen practitioner!)

- Bertolt Brecht
- Frantic Assembly
- Mike Leigh
- Steven Berkoff
- Punchdrunk Theatre Company
- Konstantin Stanislavski
- Antonin Artaud

When you have chosen your x2 theatre makers/theatre companies from the above list, research the following:

- The artistic aims of the theatre maker/theatre company
- Past productions
- Social, cultural and historical influences of the theatre maker/theatre company
- Critical reviews of theatre created
- Key themes and ideas explored in the work of the theatre maker/theatre company
- Genre of the work produced
- Style and dramatic techniques and theatrical devises used in the theatre work produced



## Theatre Studies

A Level Drama and Theatre studies provides students with the opportunity to develop their interest and enjoyment in drama and theatre, both as participants and as informed members of an audience. The course aims to foster students' enthusiasm for and critical appreciation of the subject.

This course also aims to develop students' understanding and appreciation of the significance of social, cultural and historic influences on the development of drama and theatre. Thus, the subject links in very well with English Literature and History.

This subject is not an easy option as it demands a high degree of analysis. Much of the course is taught through practical workshops but there are some theory sessions. Students keep very detailed 'Learning Logs' where they are encouraged to reflect on and evaluate their learning so that they become confident and independent interpreters of drama and theatre.

## How is A Level Theatre Studies assessed?

60% of the A-level will be assessed through non-exam assessment, 40% through a written exam.

### Set plays

Students will study and explore practically **two** set plays:

*The following plays represent significant drama through the ages:*

- Bertolt Brecht ***The Caucasian Chalk Circle***

*The following plays represent 20th and 21st century drama:*

- Tennessee Williams ***The Glass Menagerie***

## A Level Theatre Studies units:

### Component 1: Drama and Theatre

#### What's assessed?

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
- Study of two set plays
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

### **How is it assessed?**

- Written exam: 3 hours (Open book)
- **40% of A-level**

### **Questions**

- Section A: one question (from a choice) on one of the set plays.
- Section B: one two-part question on a given extract from one of the set plays.
- Section C: one question on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production.

## **Component 2: Creating Original Drama (Practical)**

### **What's assessed?**

- Process of creating devised drama.
- Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as a performer or director).

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

### **How is it assessed?**

- Working notebook
- Devised performance
- **30% of A-level**

This component is marked internally by Mrs Bugg and moderated by AQA.

## **Component 3: Making Theatre (Practical)**

### **What's assessed?**

- Practical exploration and interpretation of Extract 1, 2 and 3, each taken from a published play. The methodology of a theatre practitioner must be applied to Extract 3. Extract 3 is to be performed as a final assessed piece (students may contribute as performer or director).
- Reflective report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts.

### **How is it assessed?**

- Performance of Extract 3 and a reflective report
- **30% of A-level**

This component is marked by AQA external examiner.