



A Level Drama & Theatre – Transition Task

NAME:

HANDING IN: Please bring your work (paper copy) with you to your last Drama and Theatre lesson in week 1 (you will be reminded in your first lesson)

In order to give you an introduction to A Level Drama & Theatre and prepare you for the best possible start we would like you to complete the tasks below. This work will become the foundation of your first few weeks of study, and beyond, and will ease the transition between GCSE and A Level. **These tasks look at influences on modern theatre including practitioners who have influenced modern theatre makers.**

TASK 1 - Theatre practitioners

Choose one of the following theatre practitioners and research and understand their methodologies:

- Steven Berkoff (playwright, actor and director)
- Anton Artaud (actor, director and writer)
- Frantic Assembly (theatre company)
- Bertolt Brecht (playwright and director)
- Konstantin Stanislavski (director, writer and actor)

You will need to find out the following information about the practitioner:

1. **When and where were / are they active in the theatre?**
2. **What was the theatre of their time like before they started working?**
3. **What is the intention of their work? (What do they want the audience to think / feel / understand?)**
4. **What are the main features of their style of theatre?**
5. **What productions, writings etc. are they particularly famous for?**
6. **Find one quote from the practitioner which you feel sums up their practice.**

You can present your information in one of three ways:

- A poster (this would be in the style of an educational poster to go on a classroom wall)
- A pamphlet / leaflet
- A PowerPoint presentation

Be as creative as you like in the way you present your work.

You **MUST** reference any sources you use to find out information (e.g. books, websites etc.)

TASK 2: Applying your research

Think about a play text that you have studied in English or Drama. Imagine you are the director of a new production of this play, with an unlimited budget. You are going to use the methodologies of the practitioner you have researched (above) to create a directorial concept for the play to present to your actors and design team. Fill in the boxes below:

Which play are you directing?	Which practitioner is your influence?
Where will your performance take place? Why?	What will your approach to rehearsing your actors be like?
What design elements (e.g. lighting, costume etc.) are going to be important in your production? Why?	What do you want your audience to think / feel / understand by the end of the performance?

TASK 3: Live Theatre

If you can, go to the theatre to watch a play (not a musical). If you can't go and see something, write about a production you have seen recently or take advantage of some of the fantastic, streamed theatre that is available at the moment. Write a review of the play including your thoughts on the design (set, lighting, costume, sound etc.), performances of the actors, and the direction.

Task 4: Glossary

Knowing the key terms will enable you to understand subject-specific language and access other tasks, as well as making rapid progress when you start your course. Many of these will feel familiar. Please complete the table finding the subject-specific definitions of all the terms, and feel free to add your own to the glossary:

Key term	Definition
Proscenium arch	The 'frame' around an end-on stage through which the audience watches the action.
The 'fourth wall'	
In the round	
Up Stage (US)	
Down Stage (DS)	
Centre Stage (CS)	
Stage Left (SL)	
Stage Right (SR)	
Auditorium	
Wings	
Naturalistic	
Surreal	
Symbolic	
Immersive theatre	
Physical theatre	
Devising	

[illegible]