
A LEVEL DRAMA AND THEATRE

Context:

A-level Drama and Theatre offers students the opportunity to explore drama as a practical art form, in which ideas and meaning are communicated to an audience through choices of form, style and convention.

Reading Material:

You are encouraged to read as many plays as possible from different time periods. This will give you a greater understanding of how theatre has developed throughout the years. You should also read theatre reviews to see how performances are critiqued within the industry. You can access free reviews on the following website, however there are many different outlets for you to search.

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

Tasks:

Task 1

Research the following practitioners: Bertolt Brecht & Konstantin Stanislavski. What are their styles for performance? Who are their influences? What are their aims and intentions? What do you like, dislike about each of their approaches? Explore their techniques. Compare and contrast the two practitioners. You need to evidence a variety of resources and clearly reference your research using note taking and annotations. These practitioner 'fact files' should be written in your own words, but present them as creatively as possible.

Task 2

Prepare a presentation which focuses on theatre throughout the times, focusing on the following: Elizabethan Theatre, 19th Century Theatre and 20th Century Theatre. Your presentation must include information about actors, playwrights, theatre spaces, set design, costume and the social, cultural, historical and political conditions of the period.

Task 3

What can a 21st century audience member expect to see in theatres today? Choose at least three different theatrical venues (local, national and international) and analyse their performances going back to September 2018. You need to be able to explain what type of theatrical performance is common to a particular theatre and outline the features of that genre. You must include actors, set and playwrights in your presentation.