



# GET READY TO STUDY A LEVEL DRAMA

If you are planning to study A Level Drama and Theatre with us in September, please review this document and complete the required activities. Please bring the completed activities with you at induction.

## FAQ

### **What specification will I study?**

You will be studying the AQA A-Level Drama & Theatre Studies specification.

Use the weblink or QR code to read about the specification and you can also view past papers to see what the assessment looks like.

[AQA | Drama | A-level | Drama and Theatre](#)

### **How many lessons will I have a week?**

You'll have 4 lessons a week, each lesson is 1 hours and 10 minutes

### **Who can I contact if I have a question about this subject?**

Phoebe Wilson: [p.wilson@barnsley.ac.uk/](mailto:p.wilson@barnsley.ac.uk)

### **What subjects go well with Drama?**

Media, Literature and Language, Film, History, Law

### **What grades should I have?**

# WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Over the two years you will study three different components.

## Component 1: Drama through the ages.

This is the exam-based component where you will study two set texts and a live production. The exam is 3hr duration and is broken up into three elements.

The first set-text is a classic Greek tragedy, Sophocles' *Antigone*, where you will focus on interpreting the action within key scenes to a modern audience, using the historical context of the production to help influence your ideas.

The second set-text is Steven Berkoff's *Metamorphosis* (adapted from Franz Kafka's novella *The Metamorphosis*) where you will study this play from the perspective of a performer, director and designer (set, sound, lighting and costume) in order to communicate your theatrical ideas to an audience.

The third part of the exam is 'Live Production' where over the two years, you will experience several different productions within a variety of genres, styles, themes etc. You will then choose your favourite of the ones you've studied and analyse and review key scenes in relation to a question.

## Component 2: Creating Original Drama.

This is a practical and coursework-based component.

This component allows students in groups to create their own piece of theatre, based on a stimulus and practitioner of the students' own choosing. This component heavily relies on research in order to generate a performance, but allows students to chance to create their own show. The research into practitioner and stimulus and development of ideas are discussed within the coursework.

## Component 3: Making Theatre

This is a practical and coursework-based component.

Over the two years, students will study three different plays. One more classical, like Ibsen or Shakespeare. Two plays will be more modern. Each student will choose an extract to perform from each play. The third production will be performed to an examiner. Students can choose to work on a monologue, duologue or group piece for each of the performances. Research into the plays and the development of characters and ideas will make up the coursework.

# WHAT WILL I NEED?

To study the course you will need the following equipment:

- A folder with dividers
- Lined paper or Notebook
- Pens and pencils
- Highlighters
- A ruler
- Playscripts (Given at the start of the year)

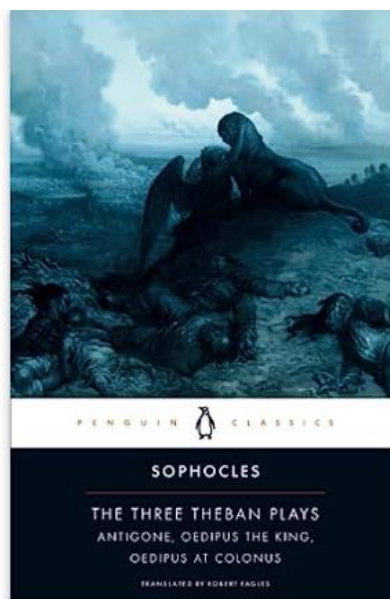
Students also find it useful to have:

- Blank flashcards, paper to make revision materials.
- Some students may wish to bring laptops or electronic devices to use.

All students need to buy the playscripts and these can be purchased from an online retailer such as Amazon or bookshops such as Waterstones. Financial support is available for those who qualify.

To Note: Antigone will be studied in September; students will need to purchase this copy below before starting the course. It needs to be a clean, unannotated copy as this will be taken into the exam.

[The Three Theban Plays: 'Antigone', 'Oedipus the King', 'Oedipus at Colonus' \(Penguin Classics\): Amazon.co.uk: Sophocles, Bernard Knox, Robert Fagles: 9780140444254: Books](#)



# FIND OUT MORE

These activities are to help broaden your understanding of the subject in preparation for studying this subject at an advanced level.

Careers	Actor, Stage Manager, Director, Theatre Designer, Teacher, Drama Therapist, Presenter, Radio Presenter.
Social Media	<p>Students will be given a free subscription to National Theatre Online and Digital Theatre Plus when they join the course, where they will be able to access hundreds of theatre productions and resources.</p> <p>I would recommend finding and following local theatre companies on social media, as well as theatres in the surrounding area to keep yourself up to date on the latest productions.</p>
YouTube	<p><a href="#">National Theatre - YouTube</a>  <a href="#">franticassembly - YouTube</a>  <a href="#">Stanislavski - An Actor Prepares - YouTube</a>  <a href="#">BRECHT Introduction - YouTube</a>  <a href="#">Steven Berkoff on Mime in Paris and Kafka's Metamorphosis - YouTube</a>  <a href="#">Five Minutes With: Steven Berkoff - YouTube</a></p>
Further Reading / Useful websites	<p><a href="#">Konstantin Stanislavsky   Biography, Method, &amp; Facts   Britannica</a>  <a href="#">Brechtian techniques as a stimulus for devised work - Epic theatre and Brecht - GCSE Drama Revision - OCR - BBC Bitesize</a>  Oedipus the King - Sophocles  Oedipus at Colonus - Sophocles  An Actor Prepares  Brecht on Theatre</p>

# INDUCTION TASK

You have three tasks to complete for Drama, one from each component to give you an introduction into each part of the course.

## Task 1: Component 1

### Theatre Show Review:

Choose a theatre production (Film/TV not allowed) you have seen recently. You will write a 500-600 word review of one actor within two key scenes. Create an introduction in which you summarise the plot, provide information on who wrote or directed the play and when/where you watched the production. You must focus on how they applied their performance skills (*facial expressions, body language, movements, gestures, voice, proxemics and levels*) to convey their emotions to the audience. You may wish to give an overview of the scene first, then discuss particular moments from the scene where they conveyed emotions to the audience. Think about how you felt towards the character when you watched the production.

## Task 2: Component 2

### Devising Task:

You will create a moodboard or collage (A3 in size). This should include plenty of images from a variety of different sources that you'd be interested to use as a stimulus for a performance. Some examples might be that you wish to include snippets of texts or images from the news, quotes that inspire you, images of people or topics who you find interesting etc. Try to include a diverse range of ideas that you think could potentially make a highly creative and interesting piece of theatre.

## Task 3: Component 3

### Study of Two Practitioners.

You will create two posters (A4 or A3) on Konstantin Stanislavski and Bertolt Brecht. These are two practitioners you will study in Component 3. The information included needs to be:

Their backgrounds and major life events.

Their style of theatre.

The name of their practice or theatre-style.

What influenced them to create their style of theatre?

What are the main techniques included in their style of theatre?

What is the aim of their theatrical style?

Please include on the back of the posters the website links or names of books you've looked into.

**THIS WORK IS DUE FOR:**

**Your Induction Lesson.  
Please ensure you bring it  
with you!!**

**If there are any questions about this  
work, you can email Phoebe at:**

**[p.wilson@barnsley.ac.uk](mailto:p.wilson@barnsley.ac.uk)**