







TUXFORD
— ACADEMY —

Drama & Theatre:

GCES to A-level transition booklet

A Level Drama and Theatre Studies is a considerable jump from the GCSE course and requires a higher level of independent study and research-based work. The activities below will help you to develop the skills required to begin studying for the A Level Drama course.

Task	
<p>1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a page of notes analysing and compare/contrasting two pieces of theatre you have already seen. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How did they differ? What different response/emotion did they provoke? ○ How did the staging, concept, vision and semiotics differ? ○ Was one your favourite, if so why?
<p>2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch at least one of the films below. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As well as reviewing the entire film, you should also analyse the performance of at least one actor. You can do this in written form. Choose specific moments from the film to comment on, as well as giving your overall opinion on the film. <p><i>They are all great films, both in terms of the performances the actors give and the style of filmmaking used to make them. Push yourself out of your comfort zone by embracing a different style and genre of film, you will find you learn so much about the world around you and people's behaviour by broadening the type of films you watch. Why not challenge yourself to watch them all over the summer? You won't regret it and you have plenty of time.</i></p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="width: 150px; height: 80px; margin-bottom: 10px;">  </div> <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p><i>A look at three defining chapters in the life of Chiron, a young black man growing up in Miami. His epic journey to manhood is guided by the kindness, support and love of the community that helps raise him.</i></p> <p>Moonlight (2016) ft Mahershala Ali, Naomie Harris (YouTube £3.49)</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="width: 150px; height: 80px; margin-bottom: 10px;">  </div> <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p><i>Disinterested workaholic Ted develops a special bond with his son, Billy, after his wife Joanna walks out on them. However, Joanna soon returns, demanding full custody of their son.</i></p> <p>Manchester vs Manchester (2017) (Ruslan Ibragimov, Meryl Streep (YouTube £2.49))</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="width: 150px; height: 80px; margin-bottom: 10px;">  </div> <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p><i>Talented figure skater Tonya Harding's world comes crashing down when her ex-husband conspires to injure a fellow Olympic hopeful, in a poorly conceived attack that forces her to withdraw from the national</i></p> <p>I, Tonya (2018) ft Margot Robbie, Sebastian Stan (Prime £2.49)</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="width: 150px; height: 80px; margin-bottom: 10px;">  </div> <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p><i>Saroo gets separated from his family at the age of five and ends up being adopted by an Australian couple. However, he returns to India 25 years later to search for his birth parents. (True Story) This film is beautiful!</i></p> <p>Lion (2016) ft Nicole Kidman, Dev Petal (Prime £2.49)</p> </div> </div>



In order to escape the prison labour, McMurphy, a prisoner, fakes insanity and is shifted to the special ward for the mentally unstable. In this ward, he must rise up against a cruel nurse, Ratched.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975) ft Jack Nicholson

(YouTube)



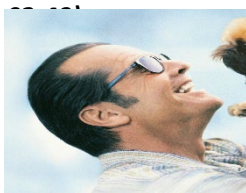
Marion, a nurse, works tirelessly to keep her family afloat after her husband loses his job. She also maintains a turbulent bond with a teenage daughter who is just like her: loving, strong-willed and deeply opinionated.

Lady Bird (2017) ft Saoirse Ronan (NETFLIX)



Summer, 1983, 17yr old Elio is spending the days with his family at their villa in Italy. He meets Oliver, a handsome student who is working for Elio's father. Elio and Oliver develop an unexpected bond that changes Elio's life forever.

Call Me by Your Name (2017) ft Timothée Chalamet (YouTube)



When the bigoted, compulsive writer Melvin's gay neighbour is brutally assaulted, he is forced to take care of his dog. He falls in love with a waitress and the three form an unlikely friendship.

3

- Watch a piece of live theatre you have never seen before.
 - Lots of theatres are starting to open their doors this summer, so why not treat yourself to something live!
- We also have access to the **National Theatre** collection, an online service containing 30 live stage shows recorded at the National Theatre.

Login: <https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/custom-browse?docid=nationalTheatreCollection>

Username: 4Mf/3EI&

Password: 1JI'3Zi&

- Write a review on one piece of theatre that you have seen;
 - Provide information on the context of the piece (historical context, setting etc)
 - Justify the style and genre of the piece.
 - Identify a range of elements that you admired about the production;
 - The directorial vision (themes, message etc)
 - The performance of key actors
 - Staging and the use of proxemics
 - Semiotics –
 - Lighting design
 - Costume, make-up
 - Set design, props
 - Use of sound/music
 - Use of dramatic devices (structure, physical theatre, monologue etc)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify elements of the performance that you felt could have been more effective and outline how this could have been achieved. • You cannot cover every aspect of the production, so think carefully about which points might be the most interesting to write about. • You need to be concise (make fewer, clearer points – no ‘babble’)
<p>4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct thorough research around some of the renowned theatre practitioners; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Background and context ○ Their influences/beliefs and views on theatre ○ Their methods/teachings/style ○ Examples of their work <p style="text-align: right;"> Constantin Stanislavski Antonin Artaud Bertolt Brecht Steven Berkoff Augusto Boal Joan Littlewood Jacques LeCoq Katie Mitchell Peter Brook Frantic Assembly Gecko Theatre Kneehigh Theatre Company The Paper Birds </p>
<p>5</p>	<p><u>This is an optional extra – it is a large task, but it will help you considerably with the demands of the A Level course if you choose to complete it</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read an entire play and provide a plan for how you might stage this text as a director. • To find a play you will need to order one online, or you could read an older play that is free to view online, such as Shakespeare. • You should aim to read a play that is new to you, something you have perhaps found online. The play can be contemporary or older and you may choose the style and genre. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Search for a genre on Amazon to find plays that might suit you. (Contemporary plays etc) • Once you have read the play, answer the following questions below and start to build a creative vision for the piece, imagine you are directing a performance in a theatre of your choice. These questions should not be answered in the form of an essay, but more of a journal/note book. You may include diagrams, mind maps, mood walls and standard notes. The choice is yours, but be creative. <p>1. What themes from the play are you planning to bring out during your interpretation?</p>

What key themes will your performance focus on and what message will your piece have? What impact do you want your performance to have on your audience?

2. What form of staging will you use to achieve your interpretation? Thrust, End On, Traverse, In the Round, Promenade etc

The performance space is vital in communicating meaning to the audience. You should imagine a performance space in your head and base your idea around it. Justify how the space and choice of staging will benefit your vision.

3. What will your set look like? How does it communicate meaning? How will it communicate your themes?

Think about every detail of your set...how will it compliment your performance space and staging type? How will it communicate your chosen themes/messages? How will it communicate meaning with regards to relationships etc? You should also think about how your set will be stressed (the materials you will use and the details in the set)

4. How will your set function during the piece? Is it fixed? Abstract? A composite Set? A unit set (break away and create other things)? Minimalistic set? Box set?

Think about your text – what demands are there with regards to locations and settings? Can your set be static and abstract, or does it need to change and evolve throughout the play. Provide some examples of how the set will change and alter during the performance.

5. How will you use lighting throughout the play to communicate your intentions and the themes of the piece?

Lighting is crucial to communicating mood and atmosphere. Choose some key moments/scenes from your play where lighting will be crucial in communicating meaning, marking the moment or highlighting subtext/characterisation. Outline what you would want the lighting to do.

6. How will you use costume to communicate meaning to the audience?

Costumes will depend on your choice of style – will they be naturalistic? Symbolic? Or a combination of the two. Will they be simple, subtle or extravagant etc.

7. How will you utilise sound elements to create atmosphere?

Sound effects, sound collage, music, song etc. Think about how sound (live and recorded) might help create mood and atmosphere throughout your performance.

8. What other devices will you use to achieve your vision? Physical theatre etc?

Think about the range of dramatic devices available to you – movement, dance, physical theatre, cross-cutting etc. Will you reimagine any existing scenes? Or perhaps insert new moments within the performance to further enhance the piece and communicate meaning? You cannot cover everything, but explain how you would direct certain scenes and what dramatic devices you would use (and why?)