

YEAR 12 – BRIDGING UNITS

# A-LEVEL DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES



ST HILDA'S  
COLLEGE

The 6<sup>th</sup> Form  
@ St Hilda's

BRIDGING  
UNITS

Name:


Anything is

POSSIBLE

# Drama and Theatre Studies

## Theatre Studies

- Please complete the following bridging tasks by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September.
- File them in your A4 ring binder under 'Bridging Tasks'.

Course Title	Exam board
Theatre Studies	<a href="#">EDUQAS (WJEC)</a> 
<b><u>Units/Topics Studies</u></b>	
In Theatre Studies, you will study a range of approaches to theatre - both from your own perspective and throughout history. This mainly focuses around <b>practitioners</b> who have influenced theatre, reviewing <b>live contemporary theatre</b> , study of three specific <b>set texts</b> and considering your own <b>reinterpretation</b> of existing plays.	
<b>Bridging Tasks</b>	
One of the best things for your development is to access the wealth of live theatre that have been made available to the public (see links below). There are 4 tasks, both research and project based, that will help you to prepare.	
If you want feedback on these tasks, please don't hesitate to contact me: <a href="mailto:kmcvey@st-hildas.co.uk">kmcvey@st-hildas.co.uk</a>	

<b><u>Task 1 - Practitioners</u></b>
Research the work of Konstantin Stanislavski and Bertolt Brecht. Consider how these two men approached theatre differently and create an information sheet comparing the two.
<b>Evidence</b> to place in your folder: information sheet

### Task 2 - Live Contemporary Theatre

[Click here](#) for a comprehensive, constantly updated, list of all the high quality streams available. Watch with a family member and discuss your thoughts with them, start an online discussion with friends, or write a review listing good and bad points.



<https://www.digitaltheatreplus.com/>

**Evidence** to place in your folder: live theatre review

### Task 3 - Set Texts

Select one (or more) of the set texts below. (Ideally) read the play and research the context – what was the playwright trying to say with this play? What was happening at the time that it was written?

**Evidence** to place in your folder: your research notes & reflections.

[Hedda Gabler](#) by Henrik Ibsen



[Accidental Death of an Anarchist](#) by Dario Fo



[The Curious Incident...](#)  
by Simon Stephens



### Task 4 - Reinterpretation

Reinterpretation is a deconstruction of the text in order to create a new piece of theatre. You might:

- Put ‘a new spin’ on the creative aims of the piece e.g. altering the focus of the themes or intended audience response, or
- Perform/design the extract in a way not originally intended e.g. applying the ideas of a practitioner that are not naturally occurring in the text.



Use the grid overleaf (taken from [here](#)) and choose 3/5 areas in which to reimagine a play that you have seen before ,or perhaps one you have watched for ‘Live Theatre’.

How could you put *your* stamp on this production? At A Level, there are no restrictions on deviating from the original intentions – be as experimental as you like!

**Evidence** to place in your folder: your reinterpretation of a text / play.

Anything is

POSSIBLE

Dialogue	Plot and Structure	Character	Theme and Content	Style and Conventions
Repeat dialogue	Change order of scenes	Change gender of characters	Change the theme(s)	Change the style
Cut lines	Alter the narrative	Change target audience	Add music	Use of puppets
Edit lines	Repeat scenes	Multirole	Add poetry	Mime and movement
Choral speaking	Realise off-stage action	Divide character between several actors	Add dialogue from other plays	Physical theatre
Allocate dialogue to different characters	Introduce flash-backs and flash-forwards	Create characters not seen in the original	Add song	Costume from a contrasting period
Translate into a different language	Delete scenes	Change character perspective and/or motivation	Add dance elements	Use of abstract sound and lighting
Vocal techniques	Create a new narrative	Minor to major characters	Add other cultural theatre styles	Use a clash of conventions

## Concluding comments

Theatre Studies is a subject which focuses heavily on performance, but also requires you to be in control of that performance. The strongest candidates start in September with an open mind and a willingness to explore new ideas, so use this time to watch as much as possible. It is as valuable to understand what you hate as much as what you love.