

Drama and Theatre A Level – Preparatory Work 2025

In order for you to understand what it is like to study for an A Level Drama and Theatre qualification and in order for your teachers to assess your commitment to the subject, you need to prepare the following for the third and fourth Drama and Theatre lessons:

1. Read a play and choose a monologue from it. This can be pieced together from a wider section of text (no more than 5-6 pages) where other characters' lines are removed but you should not change the meaning of the monologue or change the order of the text. Please prepare a one-minute performance of the monologue to be performed in your third lesson. You do not have to play your gender or age but you must have read the full play and planned your performance in terms of voice, physicality and use of space to communicate your character's objectives and subtext. If you don't know what objectives or subtext are, look those words up first. Even if you want to complete the course as a designer, please plan the best performance you can (even if you are nervous) as we want to gauge what your understanding of acting currently is.
2. Research the theatre practitioner Antonin Artaud. What was he trying to achieve with the Theatre of Cruelty? There are texts in the library about him to help you. Please prepare a one-page document that lists quotes about his work and your thoughts about what that might mean in terms of the audience's experience of his work. Please do not just copy and paste from the internet, you should read about Artaud's theories and consider what you think it means. It will be difficult to understand, please just engage with the task in an honest way. We will then help you to understand more fully. This is due in the first lesson after the monologue performances.