



Preparing for GCSE Drama

Thank you for choosing GCSE Drama! Below is a whole host of resources to help you prepare for starting the course in September. If you have any questions at all, you can contact me on williamsm@sarchs.com. If you do need to send me an email, please remember to use your school account.



Good luck!

COMPONENT ONE PREPARATION: PRACTITIONERS AND STIMULUS MATERIALS

Task: Throughout our GCSE in Drama we are going to look at a range of theatre practitioners (people who are recognised for the difference that they made to theatre because of their contribution). In Year 10 we will study Stanislavski and in Year 11 we will study Brecht.

For each of these practitioners create a page of research. Make sure you include images and clear designs to help you with your revision during the GCSE. For each practitioner try to find out:

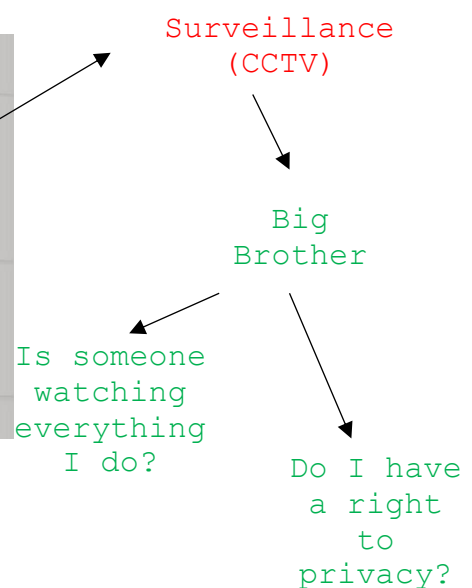
1. What is their full name?
2. Where were they born? When were they born?
3. Was anything significant happening in the world during their lifetime?
4. What ideas did they have about theatre and how it should be constructed/performed?
5. What were their most famous pieces of work?
6. How is their work still used today?

Task: You also need to be able to consider how you can develop ideas from a stimulus material: e.g. a quote/image/song/artwork. A stimulus is something that inspires someone. It allows someone to have an idea and then develop it into a piece of drama.

For each of the following stimuli, create a mind map that uses two colours. Using one colour you should go around the mind map writing down the first words or thoughts that you have about each stimulus. Then, with a second colour, you should go around the mind map again and expand all of your initial thoughts or words with questions or ideas to develop your thoughts further.

I have given you a first example on stimulus 1 below:

Stimulus 1:



Stimulus 2: *Viva la Vida* by Coldplay

Stimulus 3: 'Youth is wasted on the young' – quote.

COMPONENT TWO: PERFORMING FROM A TEXT

Task: During the January-May of Year 11, you will be working in a group and performing an extract from a play text. The skills needed for this are:

- memorisation of lines
- interpreting the text and understanding what the playwright is aiming for
- applying other theatrical aspects: costume, props, make up, set, sound and lighting to create an overall performance.

To help prepare for this unit, search around the following website and look at monologues (speeches or prose performed by a single performer). Select a monologue you like, research it, prepare it, learn the lines, set your props/set/costume/make up and then try and record your performance!

You can start your monologue search [here](#), but you can also use the rest of Google! Make sure that the content of your monologue is appropriate!

COMPONENT THREE SET TEXT: WAR HORSE (MICHAEL MORPURGO/NICK STAFFORD)

The following links will help you to develop your understanding of the set text for your written GCSE exam:

<u>Eduqas Set Text PDF</u>	http://resource.download.wjec.co.uk.s3.amazonaws.com/vtc/2015-16/15-16_44/war-horse.pdf
<u>The Original Text</u>	If you have the original book by Michael Morpurgo, you could start by reading the book to remind you of the original source. If you haven't got a copy of the book and would like to buy one, it is available here . <i>Please be aware that this is optional and that there is no expectation for anyone to buy this.</i>
<u>The Film</u>	You can also develop your understanding of War Horse by watching the film. You may already have this on DVD but it is also available here . <i>Please be aware that this is optional and that there is no expectation for anyone to buy this.</i>
<u>The Play Script</u>	In class, we will be studying the play script in detail. During the first weeks of the course, I will be asking you to try and get a copy – if you want to get ahead, you can get one here . <i>Please be aware that there is no expectation for anyone to buy the script at this stage.</i>
<u>Original Production</u>	<p>As you watch the following videos, make notes on what you learn about the original production: what did the National Theatre do? What was the set like? What were the horse puppets like?</p> <p>National Theatre Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rxU5BytAtOs Joey appears on Paul O'Grady: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMegBak1RQg TED - The Puppets: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7u6N-cSWtY&t=35s Celebrity Painting Challenge: https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0775wrl War Horse lighting design: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uY4oNW6s_y0 War Horse sound design: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYm8sdIhINo Behind the Curtain: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qqbWEonptVo&t=21s The Creative Team: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tU-96J0qQr8&t=9s The Goose in War Horse! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q3IQJNFF0q0 Page to Stage: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zf376mhqInY Albert and Joey: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iapn8LKXMek Joey and Topthorn: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObMifXLR34M The Handstring Puppet Company: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9a9-zLDqx5g</p>

COMPONENT THREE: LIVE THEATRE REVIEWS

One of the best ways to develop your skills of evaluating theatre, is to watch as much theatre as you can! Try to select three things that you really liked about the performance and three things you would do differently if you were producing the show. Think about the characterisation, the technical aspects (lighting and sound) and the audience reaction.

At the moment there is lots of theatre available online for free – you just need to search for it! YouTube is a great place to start but then:

- [The National Theatre](#) (during the pandemic, free live theatre showing every Thursday 7pm)
- [Shakespeare's Globe](#) (streamed Shakespeare productions from the Globe Theatre)
- [Broadway HD](#) (subscription needed – always ask permission first!)
- [The Shows Must Go On!](#) (Classic every Friday at 7pm for 48hrs)
- Newsies (Disney Broadway – Disney+ subscription needed!)

DRAMA SKILLS: TECHNICAL THEATRE

Task: One of the key skills that we will be working on in Drama is to understand how theatre works technically. Have a look at these resources from the exam board to help you understand the different elements of theatre design. Complete the interactive activities and when you complete each one, take a screen shot of your work:

- Eduqas Drama Design: http://resource.download.wjec.co.uk.s3.amazonaws.com/vtc/2015-16/15-16_26/eng/index.html
- Lighting Design (The Colour Lab) <https://scenicandlighting.com/colorlab/>
- Lighting Design (for Dance Productions) <https://scenicandlighting.com/lightlab/>
- Lighting Design (Gobos) <https://scenicandlighting.com/gobos/>

THE HISTORY OF THEATRE: SHAKESPEARE

Task: How well do you know the most famous works of William Shakespeare? Watch [these](#) three-minute Shakespeare clips. Copy and complete the following table to help you collate your findings:

Name of Play	Key Cast	Short summary	Your own thoughts on this play

Task: Do some online research on Shakespeare and see if you can complete the following text:

William Shakespeare was born on _____ in _____.

He died in _____. He wrote _____ plays and around _____ sonnets. He was an actor and playwright for _____. The Globe Theatre was built in _____. The three types of plays he wrote were _____.

_____.

Three features of Globe Theatre were _____.

_____.

The wealthy got _____.

The _____ paid a penny to _____ in the pit. Most audience members were _____.

_____.

Three details about the staging of the Globe Theatre was: _____.

_____.

List 3 differences/aspects of the theatre to what we have today are: _____.

_____.

_____.

They let the public know there was a play today by _____.

_____ were not allowed to perform. The wealthy sat _____. Only characters in _____ spoke in prose.