

Y12 Theatre Studies A Level Preparation Task

This research task requires you to reflect upon one of the most significant theatre practitioners of the late nineteenth/early twentieth century: **Constantin Stanislavski** an actor and theatre director who to this day has continued to influence the acting and preparation style of actors and actresses the world over, helping to shape some of the most emotional, memorable and believable Drama performances ever seen.



Below are some suggestions of areas that you could cover:

- A brief biography of his life and works
- Historically, some of the key events that were occurring in both his world and the world at large at that time
- His artistic intentions and what he believed was the purpose of theatre
- What was considered to be so innovative about his approach
- His working methods, theatrical style and use of conventions, particularly considering:
 - ❖ the fourth wall
 - ❖ feeling of truth
 - ❖ the magic 'if'
 - ❖ emotion memory
 - ❖ concentration of attention
 - ❖ intonation and pauses
 - ❖ restraint and control
- Who he collaborated with
- His influence on other practitioners

Stanislavski's practice will underpin a number of key elements of your A Level course, both practically and theoretically, so we encourage you to think carefully not only about the actual content of your research, but the presentation of it, too.

In Component 1 of the course, you will be asked to keep a Creative Log which will explain how your ideas have been created, developed and refined, so see this summer work as an opportunity to *experiment* with different ways of presenting your findings.

We hope to see you using at least three different approaches which might include:

- visual images
- charts
- mind maps
- mood boards
- sketches
- Power Point slides
- annotated research in addition to written prose

The finished document can also include headings and sub-headings, notes and bullet points to help you organise the material and does not necessarily have to be computer generated- as long as it is legible!

It does, however, have to be written **in your own words** and you are advised to **list your sources**.

The total word count is 2000 words.

It is to be handed in to Mrs Hill at the start of the new term.

Thank you in anticipation for what should be an informative and inspirational research assignment.

A Level Transition Reading

Theatre Studies

As part of the course you will need to broaden your reading of theatre texts. Below is an extensive list of plays. Choose 3 titles which you can research and read in preparation for Theatre Studies.

Pre-1956

Absolute Hell Rodney Ackland

The Persians Aeschylus

Everyman Anonymous

Waiting for Godot Samuel Beckett

The Enchantment Victoria Benedictsson

Mrs Warren's Profession George Bernard Shaw

Pygmalion George Bernard Shaw

Mother Courage Bertolt Brecht

The Seagull Anton Chekhov

Blithe Spirit Noël Coward

Hay Fever Noël Coward

The Maids Jean Genet

Servant of Two Masters Carlo Goldoni

The Nativity adapted by Tony Harrison

A Doll's House Henrik Ibsen

Hedda Gabler Henrik Ibsen

Lady from the Sea Henrik Ibsen

Volpone Ben Jonson

The Bells Leopold Lewis

Dr Faustus Christopher Marlowe

All My Sons Arthur Miller

A View From a Bridge Arthur Miller

An Inspector Calls J B Priestley

Playboy of the Western World John Millington Synge

Tartuffe Molière

The Comedy of Errors William Shakespeare

Antigone Sophocles

The Dream Play August Strindberg

Under Milk Wood Dylan Thomas

The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists Robert Tressell

Our Town Thornton Wilder

The Corn is Green Emlyn Williams

The Glass Menagerie Tennessee Williams

A Streetcar Named Desire Tennessee Williams

East Lynne Ellen Wood

Thérèse Raquin Émile Zola

Post-1956

A Delicate Balance Edward Albee

The 39 Steps Patrick Barlow

One Man, Two Guvnors Richard Bean

The Madness of George III Alan Bennett

London Road Alecky Blythe

Lear Edward Bond

Two Jim Cartwright

Red Velvet Lolita Chakrabarti

Vinegar Tom Caryl Churchill

A Taste of Honey Shelagh Delaney

I Am the Wind Jon Fosse

Dancing at Lughnasa Brian Friel

Small Change Peter Gill

A History of Falling Things James Graham

Amy's View David Hare

The Secret Rapture David Hare

Humble Boy Charlotte Jones

Stones in His Pockets Marie Jones

My Mother Said I Never Should Charlotte Keatley

DNA Dennis Kelly

Beautiful Burnout Bryony Lavery

Clytemnestra Gwyneth Lewis

Lungs Duncan Macmillan

Decky Does a Bronco Douglas Maxwell

The Weir Conor McPherson

100 Neil Monaghan, Diene Petterle & Christopher Heimann

Lovesong Abi Morgan

'night Mother Marsha Norman

Loot Joe Orton

1984 George Orwell, Robert Icke and Duncan Macmillan

The Entertainer John Osborne

Amgen/Broken Gary Owen

Constellations Nick Payne

The Birthday Party Harold Pinter

Say It With Flowers Meic Povey and Johnny Tudor

Salt, Root and Roe Tim Price

Deep Cut Philip Ralph

Art Yasmina Reza

The Red Shoes Emma Rice

Tristan and Yseult Emma Rice

Blood Brothers Willy Russell

Shirley Valentine Willy Russell

Amadeus Peter Shaffer

Into the Woods Stephen Sondheim

True West Sam Shepard

Tusk Tusk Polly Stenham

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead Tom Stoppard

Blue Stockings Jessica Swale

Brontë Polly Teale

The Street of Crocodiles Theatre de Complicite

The Dark Philosophers Gwyn Thomas

Bazaar and Rummage Sue Townsend

The Ash Girl Timberlake Wertenbaker

Our Country's Good Timberlake Wertenbaker

Jane Eyre Adapted by the National Theatre (2015)