



# A Level Drama & Theatre Studies Information for Students and Summer Work



The AQA specification offers exciting possibilities in terms of both breadth and depth. However, students are expected to appreciate a range of theatrical styles from different time periods. It is essential that you get started on with your research and study of the two set texts over the long summer holiday; this will prepare you for practical and theoretical workshops.

## Components

- 1. Drama and Theatre (40%)** – Study of two set plays *Antigone* and *Our Country's Good* / live performance analysis– 3 Hours
- 2. Creating Original Drama (30%)** – Create and perform devised drama influenced by the work and methodologies of one practitioner - Working notebook and devised performance
- 3. Making theatre (30%)** – Practical exploration and interpretation of three contrasting extracts - Performance and reflective report

## Exam Board Website

Here you will find a copy of the specification:

[AQA | Drama | A-level | Drama and Theatre](#)

## Structure of the Course (Subject to change)

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 12	Component 2/3: Introduction to Practitioners		Component 2 Devising and working notebook		Component 2: Devising and working notebook assessment	
	Component 1 Section A Antigone		Component 1 Section C: Live Theatre		Component 1 Section A: Antigone, Live Theatre and Our Country's Good	
Year 13	Component 3: Extract 1 and 2, Reflective Report		Component 3: Extract 3, Reflective Report		Component 1: Revision (Antigone, Our Country's Good, Live Theatre)	
	Component 1 Section B: Our Country's Good		Component 1: Revision (Antigone, Our Country's Good and Live Theatre)			

### **Set Texts**

You will need to **purchase your own copies** of these plays. Second-hand copies can be purchased online for a very reasonable price. The ISBN number in brackets will direct you to the **specific edition** you need. **If there are any issues, such as cost, please have a quiet word with your teacher and we will be able to help or get in touch with the school before the end of the summer term.**

Sophocles, 'Antigone' (The Three Theban Plays, translated by Robert Fagles, Penguin, 1984, ISBN: 0140444254)

Timberlake Wertenbaker, 'Our Country's Good' (Methuen Student Editions, ISBN: 978-1350097889)

### **Compulsory Work**

1. Create a practitioner research portfolio- this will be a working document in which you can add to when you start the course. Compile your research in a ring binder folder with separate sections for each practitioner/ style of theatre.
  - a. Research into theatre practitioner Constantin Stanislavski using the following links:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iB1fPZX5Zgk>  
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Konstantin-Stanislavsky>
  - b. Research into Bertolt Brecht using the following links:  
[Bertolt Brecht: irresistible force or forgotten chapter in theatrical history? | Bertolt Brecht | The Guardian](#)  
[An introduction to Brechtian theatre - YouTube](#)
  - c. Research into Physical Theatre and Frantic Assembly.  
<https://www.franticassembly.co.uk/>
2. Read *Antigone* by Sophocles
3. Read *Our Country's Good* by Timberlake Wertenbaker

### **Other Information**

If possible, it would be helpful to watch some live theatre before the course.

If you are unable to attend the theatre in person, National Theatre have a range of productions that you can stream for a small cost. Recordings of plays may also be shown on Sky Arts on Freeview.

[National Theatre at Home | National Theatre](#)

<https://www.skygroup.sky/skyarts>

We look forward to seeing you in September and to starting what will be an exciting and challenging course.

**-The Drama Department**