



Welcome to

A LEVEL DRAMA AND THEATRE

at Heckmondwike Grammar School

The Drama and Theatre A Level course demands skills, knowledge and understanding across both written and practical work, and is component based in its assessment process. We will therefore explore both written and practical disciplines in your bridging and baseline work.

Written Bridging Task

Developing knowledge and understanding of Live Theatre analysis and evaluation as an informed audience member is an important part of the Drama & Theatre A-Level course. We therefore ask that you access Drama Online and watch a recorded theatre performance of your choosing and respond to the below question using the structure provided. To access the Drama Online login details alongside other helpful resources, please look out for the e-mail granting you access. If you have any trouble accessing this important resource folder, please contact Mrs Hellewell via e-mail on chellewell@heckgrammar.co.uk.

The Question and Structure

Analyse and evaluate the live performance you have seen in light of the following statement:

‘Live Theatre has a positive impact on young people today’

Your response should be structured as a 1000–2000-word essay and should be written as a personal response in the first-person past tense:

Paragraph 1 - Introduction: Detail your chosen production, the director’s intentions (research will support you with this) and how the production shaped your opinion overall on the statement in quotation marks above (this opinion can fully agree, disagree or offer a balanced opinion in relation to the above statement).

Paragraphs 2 – 5: Each paragraph should centre on a different key moment of the performance (x4 in total). Start each paragraph by detailing a very short summary of what happened in the chosen moment and then give detailed and specific examples of acting **and** 2-3 relevant design choices (these may focus on set, costume, lighting, sound) used in collaboration at that key moment **with key subject specific vocabulary**. Then analyse and evaluate the audience impact of these examples working together before linking this to your opinion of the statement.

Paragraph 6 – Conclusion: Offer a short summary of your opinion in relation to the statement.

Support resources available

Drama online login details (please e-mail chellewell@heckgrammar.co.uk for access)

Vocabulary Bank

Exemplar paragraph

Practical Bridging Task

Your baseline assessment will involve you performing a monologue of your choosing from a published play. You must select an appropriately challenging monologue, carry out any relevant research and rehearse the monologue as part of your bridging work. Please see requirements below to support you as you prepare:

- Your monologue must be from a play that is professionally published, substantial and has a running time of at least 60 minutes.
- It must be chosen so it offers you the opportunity to demonstrate exploratory range and depth.
- It should have a degree of challenge, in terms of appropriateness of content, complexity of themes, deeper social, historical and cultural contexts to enable you to achieve at A level.
- It should be between 2-3 minutes when performed.
- It is expected that you are off script and have set, props and costume (where appropriate).

Support resources available

Example monologue performance from Edexcel

List of suggested plays from Edexcel

Marking criteria

Drama staff are also on hand to offer bespoke guidance to support individual strengths and interests during the first few weeks of school.

We look forward to welcoming you onto the course and please do not hesitate to get in touch if you require any further guidance or support with the bridging work. Please be aware that support will also be given in the first two weeks of study prior to deadlines and baseline assessments.

Mrs C. Hellewell

Head of Year 7 & Subject Leader Drama



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