

# BTEC DRAMA

National Extended Certificate in Performance (Acting)



## TRANSITION TASK BOOKLET

Name	
------	--

# TASK 1A: THE HISTORY OF DRAMA & THEATRE PLC

To get the most out of working practically in the drama studio, you need to have a strong theoretical understanding of the history of drama and theatre.

Complete the pupil learning check below, honestly. It is important for you to be able to identify strengths and weaknesses in terms of your understanding of the different historic styles and genres of drama and theatre.

You are not expected to know everything about the history of drama and theatre at this point in time but it is important for you to begin the course with an understanding of the areas of the subject that you will need to get to grips with. Tick the appropriate box for each period of time.

The History of Drama & Theatre	G Excellent level of understanding	A Medium level of understanding	R Minimal or little level of understanding
<b>Ancient Greek Theatre</b>			
<b>Roman Theatre</b>			
<b>Medieval Theatre</b>			
<b>Commedia dell'Arte</b>			
<b>Elizabethan Theatre</b>			
<b>Kabuki Theatre</b>			
<b>Restoration Theatre</b>			
<b>American Vaudeville</b>			
<b>Victorian Theatre</b>			
<b>21<sup>st</sup> Century Theatre</b>			

## TASK 1B: THE HISTORY OF DRAMA & THEATRE PLC

You now need to pick the two periods of drama and theatre that you feel you know the least about.

For the first selected period of time, you should create a 10-minute session that you will teach to the class in September. The aim of your session should be to inform the rest of the class on your chosen period of theatre.

Sessions should be interactive and might include a short presentation, hand out, exercise and a quiz.

For the second period time, you should write 500 words explaining the style of theatre during this time and how it has influenced contemporary theatre practice. You can complete this task in the box below.



--

## TASK 2: PRACTITIONER RESEARCH

Complete detailed research on 2 of the following practitioners/companies:

- Antonin Artaud
- Gecko Theatre Company
- Katie Mitchell
- Kneehigh Theatre Company
- Punchdrunk

This research will be invaluable as you prepare for your performance exams and production concept. Your work can be presented in any format (multi-media, PowerPoint, poster, hand-out, essay etc.) but must include really detailed research – it must be in your own words and not copy and pasted.

Practitioner 1	
Practitioner 2	

### **PRACTITIONER 1**

History about how they came into the theatre	

Information about their chosen style of performance	

--

When did they establish their practice?

What are their aims for their style of theatre?

How do they achieve this?

What influenced them and how?

What shows have they produced/ directed/written, and when?

How did audiences react to their work?

What kind of material does their work explore?

What do other practitioners say/think about them?

Have they influenced other practitioners?

What impact have they had on theatre?

What books have they written or had written about them?

What is their approach to actor training/ rehearsals?

**PRACTITIONER 2**

History about how they came into the theatre

Information about their chosen style of performance

When did they establish their practice?



What are their aims for their style of theatre?

How do they achieve this?

What influenced them and how?

What shows have they produced/ directed/written, and when?

How did audiences react to their work?

What kind of material does their work explore?

What do other practitioners say/think about them?

Have they influenced other practitioners?

What impact have they had on theatre?

What books have they written or had written about them?

What is their approach to actor training/ rehearsals?

## TASK 3: PLAY READING

Read a play of your choice, this should be a new play and not something studied as part of your GCSE Drama or English courses. You need to be prepared to talk about this play in your first lesson in September. If you are struggling for ideas, please see the list below;

**Dirty Butterfly** by Debbie Tucker Green

**Little Revolution** by Alecky Blythe

**Pool No Water** by Mark Ravenhill

**Consensual** by Evan Placey

Complete the following on the play that you have read:

Play/ Playwright

Characters

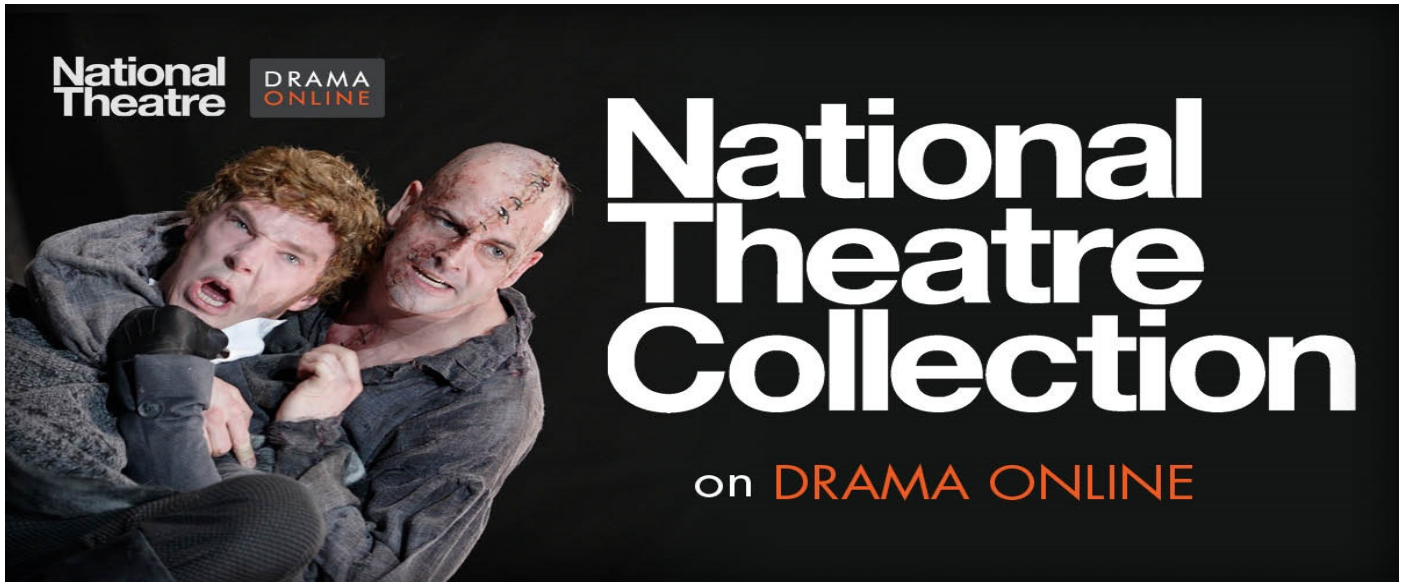
Plot Overview

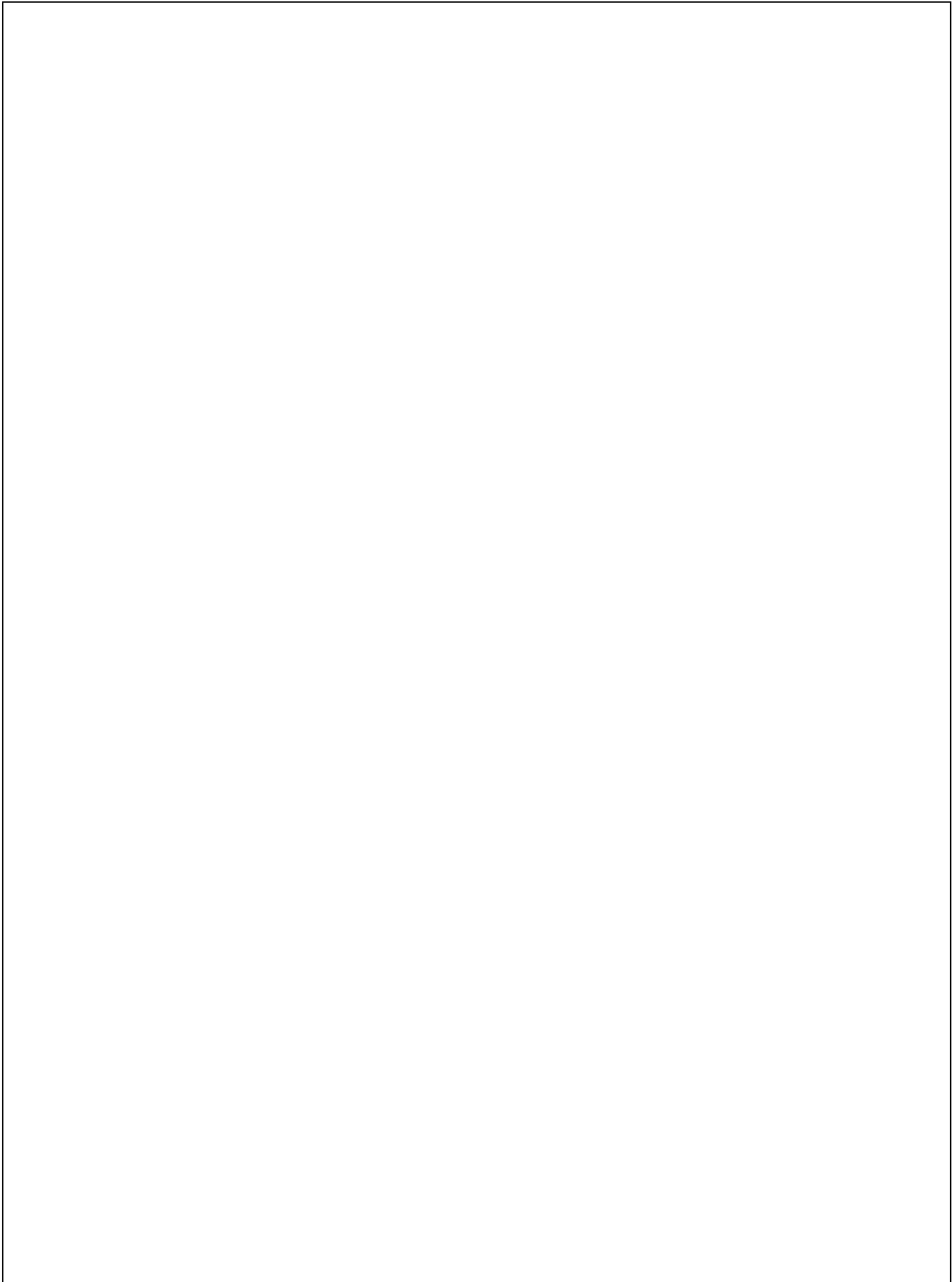
Key Moments/ Character analysis

Notes

## TASK 4: LIVE THEATRE REVIEW

Watch a theatrical performance (recorded) and write a 1000 word review focusing on use of movement or voice, and staging. You may wish to do extra research in order to support this. You could watch a production by Gecko Theatre on Youtube or a production on the National Theatre Collection. Login details are available on Teams or by emailing [rburnett@raynespark.merton.sch.uk](mailto:rburnett@raynespark.merton.sch.uk). Complete the task in the box below.





## TASK 5: STORYTELLING

Create a table top drama where you retell one of the following short stories (you may wish to find your own) on your desk or even the kitchen table! Condense the story and use household items and any clothing that you may wish to use as costume to intrigue and entertain your audience.

This can be filmed on your phone or laptop, don't worry about the quality and we will share this work in our first lesson at the start of the course. Please send your work to [rburnett@raynespark.merton.sch.uk](mailto:rburnett@raynespark.merton.sch.uk) from your student email at the beginning of the academic year.



[A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings](#)

[The Masque of the Red Death](#)

[The Lady, or the Tiger?](#)