



A level Drama and Theatre Studies

Teachers: Laura.Andersson@Wyke.ac.uk



A-level Drama and Theatre Studies: Structure of Course

Component 1: Drama and Theatre

- ▶ **Written Exam: 40 % of A-level**
 - ▶ Knowledge and Understanding of Drama and Theatre
 - ▶ Study two set plays from given list by exam board
 - ▶ Analysis and evaluation of the work of a live theatre production
- ▶ **3hr exam: three sections. Assessed in June of 2nd Yr**

Component 2: Creating Original Drama (Practical)

- ▶ **Process of creating devised drama with a performance of the work: 30% of A-level**
 - Influenced by the work and methodology of one of the chosen practitioners
- ▶ **Assessed through a working notebook and a devised performance. Marked internally and moderated by the AQA.**

Component 3: Make Theatre (Practical)

- ▶ **Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts taken from a different play: 30% of A-level**
 - ▶ Methodology of prescribed practitioner applied to Extract 3
 - ▶ Report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts.
- ▶ **Assessed through performance of Extract 3 and reflective report. Externally marked by AQA**

Written Transition Tasks

As part of your A-level preparatory work, you will be required to complete a written task. This will be due in your first A-level class in September. The A-level course has a 50:50 split of theory lessons and practical. Within the theory you are expected to

analysing famous works, playwrights and companies. The written tasks below need to be completed prior to enrolment and can either be typed or printed and handwritten.

Once completed please save the work under your name and upload to [Alevel Drama Transition Work](#)

(To access the link above you may need to highlight, select copy and paste into a browser tab **or** highlight, right click and select open hyperlink)

or simply bring a printed copy to enrolment. If you have any questions on the tasks, please email: laura.andersson@wyke.ac.uk

Use the following link for guidance and as a starting point into Greek Theatre
<https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/wRnC0fJ0>

VIDEO – National Theatre Production of National Theatre Live: [Antigone Opening.mp4](#)

Helpful Information

PLOT SUMMARY Polyneices and Eteocles, brothers and leaders of opposing sides in the Theban Civil War, are both dead, each at the other's hand. In the wake of their deaths their uncle Creon has taken the throne, and decreed that, while Eteocles has been granted customary burial rites, Polyneices is to be left unburied as food for the birds. Moreover, he has announced that anyone who defies this proclamation will be stoned to death. The play begins as Antigone and Ismene, sisters of the dead brothers, discuss Creon's decree outside the city gates. Antigone is furious and informs her sister that she has decided to defy her uncle and king by burying Polyneices. She asks for her sister's help, but Ismene is afraid, and refuses to break the laws of the city. Ismene attempts to convince Antigone to change her mind by reminding her of their family history.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

ISMENE

Antigone's sister.

Key facts:

- Believes that laws should be followed
- Beautiful and obedient
- Lives a quiet and simple life
- Lies to support her sister and says she helped to bury Polynices

Summary: Sophocles' play opens with Antigone and Ismene talking together. Antigone is trying to convince Ismene to help her bury their brother, Polynices. Ismene refuses and reminds Antigone that it is forbidden under Creon's law to do so. She disagrees with Antigone constantly and feels that her sister is being headstrong and foolish. However, much like Antigone, Ismene is very loyal to her family. She loves Antigone and does not want to live without her sister. For this reason, she tries to lie when interrogated by Creon and says that she did help Antigone bury Polynices. If found guilty, she would also be sentenced to death. However, Ismene is spared from punishment when Antigone convinces Creon she is innocent.

ANTIGONE

The play's protagonist and titular character.

Key facts:

- Breaks the law to honor her late brother, Polynices
- Is caught and punished by Creon
- Is entombed alive
- Chooses to kill herself rather than suffer

Summary: Antigone is the daughter of Oedipus, who was the former ruler of Thebes. The play is set the day after her two brothers, Polynices and Eteocles, have killed one another in battle. Antigone is outraged by Creon's decree, which bans her from burying or mourning her brother. Her response to this decision sets the events of the play into motion. Antigone is a loyal and brave woman who will pay her respects to her brother no matter the cost. Even when her sister refuses to help her, Antigone decides to proceed. Antigone is proud of her decision and doesn't hesitate to admit that she broke Creon's law. She believes in the laws of the gods over the laws of men and above anything else, she prioritizes her own moral code.

Task 1: Viewpoint

In the Prologue, Antigone pleads with her sister Ismene to help with Polynices's burial. They both deliver very different views on the subject. Choose one side and write a written response arguing why she (Antigone or Ismene) is right.

Task 2: Directing Task

How would you stage the opening prologue as a director in order to convey your point of view?

Consider the following:

- The theatrical processes and practices involved in interpreting and performing theatre.
- How conventions, forms and techniques are used in drama and live theatre to create meaning.
- How creative and artistic choices influence how meaning is communicated to an audience?
- Proxemics, voice, physicality, use of set, and interaction with others, lighting, sound, and costume

