



**Humanities  
& Languages**

Scarborough Sixth Form College

A Level Drama

Summer Bridging Work

# A Level Drama GCSE > A level Bridging Work

How to produce the work:

For tasks 1 and 2 you should either hand write or produce a word document that you can send to me on the first day at college.

## 1. Theatre Review

Attend the performance of **Pride and Prejudice** at the Stephen Joseph Theatre – you may attend any of the performances between July 3rd and July 26th – This will cost you only £10.

*Please contact me if cost presents an issue for you: email - r.milburn@s6f.org.uk*

**Write a review answering ALL the following questions. As a guide, your review should be 1500 words long.**

Don't write the story of the play.

You can write in the first person “I” e.g. “I saw the production of Pride and Prejudice...”

Follow the guidance below and use the questions to structure your review.

Introduction.

Write the date, venue and title of the play, followed by a few sentences about your overall impression of the play, characters, story, themes etc.

- Evaluate the acting

Describe the performance of ONE of the actors who played multiple roles in the performance. What did s/he do to differentiate between the characters they were playing? Was this effective?

Pick out one or two memorable moments in the play that had a particular effect on you as a member of the audience and explain why.

- Discuss the stage and set design

Describe the stage and the set design. You might like to use diagrams or labelled drawings if this helps

Plays at the Stephen Joseph Theatre are performed “in the round”. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this?

Pick one or two specific moments where the set was particularly effective

Explain how the set affected your appreciation of the play

- Lighting and Sound

Explain how the lighting and sound created a sense of place and/or time and/or mood. Focus on a few moments in the play and evaluate how the lighting and sound contribute to the overall impact of the performance?

- Costume and props

How were costume and props used to tell the story or enhance the characters and their relationships?

- What you think the director wanted to communicate to the audience?

How did you respond to the play – did it make you think about something, feel something, laugh about something?

- Conclusion – summarise your overall opinion of the play focusing on the key things that made the play effective (or not)

## 2. Research Commedia dell'arte

One of the styles of theatre that we will be studying is a form of masked, improvised comedy which started in Italy in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and has come to influence many forms of entertainment still popular today from Shakespeare to pantomime, Punch and Judy puppet shows to South Park, Only Fools and Horses and SpongeBob SquarePants!

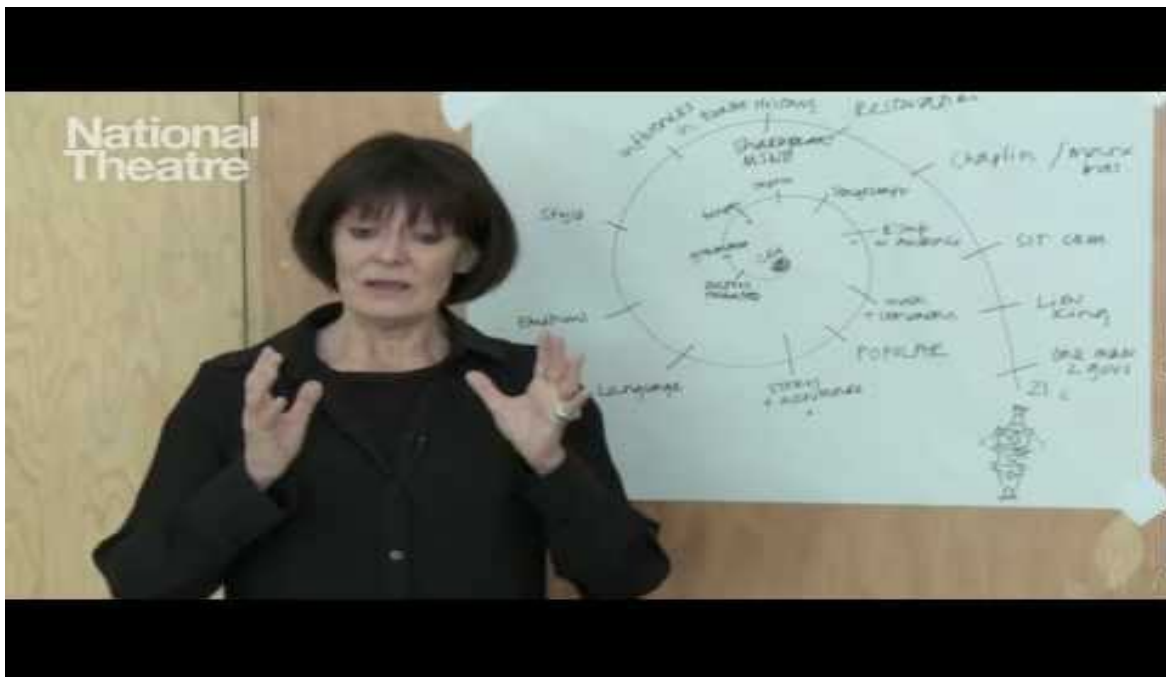
We will be basing our study around the play “A Servant to Two Masters” which is one of the texts that you write about in the exam.

Read the following article

<https://learningthroughtheatre.co.uk/commedia>

Watch the following video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqlfTG40RUI&list=PLFB7C0BBCDCE9B8A9&index=3>



Answer the following questions

1. When and in what country did commedia dell'arte start?
2. Where were early commedia plays performed?
3. How were commedia plays devised and structured?
4. Name five features of commedia dell'arte plays.
5. Give three examples of the "stock characters" that appeared in commedia plays

### 3. Learn a monologue

Share your acting skills as soon as we start the course!

Learn a 1–2-minute monologue and be prepared to perform this during the first week of the course.

How to find a monologue:

1. Use a play that you already know
2. Choose a film
3. There are loads of monologue sites online – there are a few below. Make sure that you have researched the character to make appropriate decisions about how to perform.

<https://www.monologuegenie.com/monologues.html>

<https://www.stagemilk.com/monologues-for-actors/>

<https://monologueblogger.com/52-effective-short-monologues-for-teens-and-kids/>

<https://www.backstage.com/monologues/teens/>