

A Level Drama & Theatre Studies – Summer Preparation Tasks

2025

Exam Board: Eduqas

Set Texts:

1. Home, I'm Darling, Laura Wade ISBN 978-1-350-27549-2
2. Small Island, adapted by Helen Edmundson from a novel by Andrea Levy ISBN 978-1-84842-851-5
3. The Book of Dust - La Belle Sauvage by Phillip Pullman, adapted by Bryony Lavery

Practitioners:

Constantine Stanislavski

Bertolt Brecht

Welcome to A Level Drama and Theatre Studies! These four tasks will help you develop your understanding of key texts, practitioners, and theatrical styles over the summer. Bring all work with you in September — it will be used during your first lessons.

Task 1: Character Study & Monologue (Linked to Home, I'm Darling)

Focus: Naturalism & Stanislavski

1. Read Home, I'm Darling by Laura Wade.
2. Choose a character and create a character profile using Stanislavski's ideas:
 - Given Circumstances
 - Objectives
 - Magic If
3. Write a short internal monologue (approx. 300 words) from that character's point of view during a key scene.
4. Reflect in 100–150 words on how Stanislavski's techniques helped you create the character.

Task 2: Brechtian Reimagining (Linked to Small Island)

Focus: Epic Theatre & Social Commentary

1. Choose a powerful scene from Small Island by Helen Edmundson.
2. Reimagine the scene using Brechtian techniques such as:
 - Direct address
 - Placards or captions
 - Split scenes or minimal set
3. Create a storyboard of your new version (6–8 frames).
4. Add notes explaining how each Brechtian device makes the audience think about the social/political issues.

Task 3: Solo Theatre Review Journal

Focus: Live Theatre Analysis

1. Watch two live or recorded performances (e.g. National Theatre at Home, YouTube, Drama Online).
2. Write a 350-word review for each one, including:
 - Acting and vocal/movement choices
 - Set, costume, sound, lighting
 - Audience impact and style
3. Compare aspects of the production to Brecht or Stanislavski's methods.

Task 4: Exploring Themes – Creative Project (Inspired by The Book of Dust)

Focus: Visual Storytelling & Thematic Interpretation

1. Read A Monster Calls adapted by Sally Cookson.
2. Identify three central themes
3. Create a mood board or digital collage for 2 core themes using:
 - Colours, textures, images
 - Design ideas (set, costume, sound, lighting)
 - Words or quotes from the play
4. Write 200 words per board explaining how your design choices reflect the emotional journey.

Presentation Tips

- Type or handwrite your work clearly.
- Bring all visual work printed.
- Be ready to discuss and share your ideas in class.

Have a brilliant summer and enjoy exploring theatre creatively and critically!