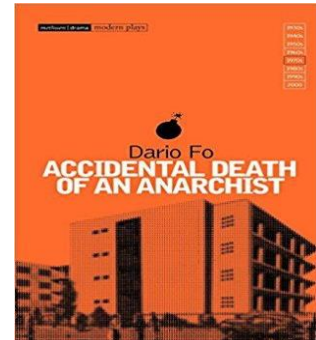


A-Level Drama Summer Bridging Work 2023/24

Exam board: AQA

Resources that you need to purchase in preparation for studying this course:

- Course reading: 'Accidental Death of an Anarchist' by Dario Fo. (You need the translation by Gavin Richards – not any other translation.)
ISBN-13: 978-0413156105
- Lever arch folder
- Dividers



Task One

Research Commedia dell'Arte. This is a type of comedy that was popular in Italy during the 1600s, and Dario Fo used it as inspiration for his play. You will need to present your research either as a presentation (slides) or as a project document including notes and images. You might include information on:

- Stock characters
- Traditions such as mask wearing
- Examples of plots
- Facts about the troupes that performed this style of work
- How these traditions have influenced modern theatre.

Task Two

Go to the theatre! (Not a musical!) See what is on at:

- Any local theatre, including amateur work is fine
- Great theatres in London include:
 - The Lyric, Hammersmith
 - The Royal Court (great for new writing)
 - The Globe (a bit of Shakespeare for only a fiver!)
 - The National Theatre (all sorts!)
 - The Young Vic
- And many, many more! You might even be lucky enough to go on holiday and visit the theatre!

Write a theatre review of the production seen. Make sure you **redraft** and **proof read** your work. 500-750 words approximately. There is a help sheet to support you with this below.

Theatre Review Guide

You need to write a review of a live production you have been to see. This should not be a musical. Below are some ideas about how to structure your review.

There are a number of ways you can structure a good review. The easiest two ways are:

- By key moments
- By production value

Both are detailed below. You can choose which ever suits you best.

<p>Introduction: What was the play called? Where did you see it and when? What expectations did you have of the play (had you read reviews or heard about it before you went?)</p>	
<p>Point 1: What were your first impressions of the theatre space and stage space? Was it a big theatre or intimate? Was the stage in view as you entered and if so what clues did it give about the production? What type of audience was it? Similar age to you or significantly different?</p>	
<p>(You can choose to structure your review around key moments or around production values.)</p>	
<p>If you are writing about production values you can make general observations (about the way the production values were used) but also need to provide specific examples for most (or least) successful use of the production value. If the production makes excellent use of light and sound you might want to split these up. You can swap it with set or costume, but you must keep acting.</p>	<p>If you are writing about key moments I would include the most successful/memorable moments and a moment you think was less successful. You will need to include references to set design, lighting, sound/music, acting and costume. You won't need to refer to every element in each moment, but pick the ones that had the greatest impact on the moment.</p>
<p>Point 2: Production value: Set design</p>	<p>Key moment 1 (include a range of production values for this key moment)</p>
<p>Point 3: Lighting / sound /music</p>	<p>Key moment 2 (include a range of production values for this key moment)</p>
<p>Point 4: Costume</p>	<p>Key moment 3 (include a range of production values for this key moment)</p>
<p>Point 5: Acting</p>	<p>Key moment 4 (include a range of production values for this key moment)</p>
<p>Conclusion: What did the production leave you thinking and/or feeling? Is it a production you would recommend? To whom? Do you think the aims of the director were met? (You might find insight into the director's intentions in the programme or on the theatre company's website.)</p>	

Make sure you draft, redraft and proof read your review. It is better to type your work as this makes it much easier to edit. Please include a word count at the bottom of your essay. Good luck!