



# DRAMA & THEATRE

**Course: AQA Drama and Theatre A-Level**

## TASK 1: CREATE YOUR OWN VERBATIM THEATRE SCRIPT

Watch the following videos about Verbatim Theatre and answer the questions:

- 1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ui3k1wT2yeM>
- 2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-a0qNEhCly4>
- 3) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39JSv-n\\_W5U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39JSv-n_W5U)

### Questions

- a. What is Verbatim Theatre in its purest form according to the first video?
- b. What can be a problem with Verbatim Theatre that Alecky Blyth explains in the first video?
- c. What is recorded delivery or head phone Verbatim Theatre?
- d. What is the process of creating a verbatim play as describe din the second video?
- e. What does the term 'hybrid verbatim' or 'blended verbatim' mean?
- f. Explain this quote '*verbatim is not just a form, it is a technique; it is a means rather than an end.*'

**Research Verbatim Plays and playwrights** including plot, narrative structure, script format and style.

**Choose: your Verbatim Theatre topic:** Decide whether you are going to write your piece based on an idea (e.g. love), a person or an event.

**Decide the form of Verbatim you** are going to use. Pure verbatim? Hybrid verbatim? Headphone verbatim?

**Think** about what you are going to write. Is it a monologue? Or is it a script featuring several characters. If it is a monologue aim for 1 A4 page. If it is a script aim for 4 or more pages.

**Begin the information gathering** process starting with the interview.

If you are doing a hybrid form, start researching other source materials.

**Gather** all your evidence together and start writing.

### INTERVIEW TECHNIQUES: Things to remember

#### How to interview a person for a Verbatim piece

1. Before the interview, know as much about the person or the event as possible – family, age, occupation, lifestyle etc.
2. Decide whether the interview is going to be taped. This is a good idea.
3. Prepare questions before the interview, and if interviewing as a whole class, have time at the end for extra questions. (Students may want a pen and paper with them to jot down questions that may come to them.)
4. Begin with non-threatening, non- emotional topics.
5. Notice the speech patterns, nuances or mannerisms of the person.
6. Let the person reminisce.
7. Use mainly open ended questions "Tell me about..." "Did you ever..." "How did you feel when..."
8. Ask the person to describe the surroundings, things that were there, things that were heard, describe the atmosphere.

9. If the interviewee is talking about a sad or painful experience, acknowledge this “that is very sad” or “that must have been very hard.”
10. Use photos, visual cues or previous quotes from the person to aid questions and prompt answers.
11. Listen.
12. Be grateful.

**Copy out this table and complete it. Read through the table FIRST before you start filling out the details. You don't have to start at the top of the table.**

<b>Title of story</b>	
<b>Outline of story</b> <i>one or two sentences</i>	
<b>Setting of the story</b>	
<b>Details of the story</b> <b>What happened chronologically</b> <i>this can be dot pointed</i>	
<b>What were you feeling at the time?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in the build up to the event</li> <li>• at the climax of the event</li> <li>• after the event.</li> </ul>	
<b>How did you see yourself (perception)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before the event</li> <li>• After the event</li> </ul> <b>What were you thinking?</b>	
<b>What do you remember seeing?</b> <i>an image that might spring to mind</i>	
<b>What do you remember hearing?</b>	
<b>What do you recall saying to anyone?</b> <b>Was there some language that you feel needs to be included in this verbatim piece.</b>	

## TASK 2: NON-REALISM STYLE EXPLORATION

### Dramatic styles

1. Theatre of Cruelty – Antonin Artaud
2. Theatre of the Absurd - Samuel Beckett

**For each of the styles above conduct an investigation using the links attached and complete your own research. Then create a 1 page poster outlining the following:**

- What is the philosophy of the style?
- What are the major conventions?

- What is the context around which it was created? (Is it like Brecht and founded around WWII?)
- What are the themes and ideas mainly present in the style?
- Who are the key playwrights and what are their plays?
- What notable productions have there been of any of this styles work? (Try to include pictures)

**Challenge:** Consider how the design of the poster can reflect the dramatic style. Take a look at things like CourseHero for inspiration.

<https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Great-Expectations/infographic/>

**Choose one style to investigate further and read a play from this style from those listed.**

*Write a 500-800 word reflective piece about your initial thoughts on this play. Be honest – if you found the play bizarre or hard to follow explain!*

### Then

Perform. Practice and perform a monologue from your chosen style. Film it and send it to Ms Brown! Monologue script ideas have been supplied on the next page or you may wish to find your own.

### Or

Design. Design either the set or the costume for one character for the play that you read. Label your drawings and send them to Ms Brown.

### For Theatre of Cruelty:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DK\\_vZuLYHcw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DK_vZuLYHcw)

<https://www.backstage.com/magazine/article/theatre-of-cruelty-definition-examples-76311/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theatre\\_of\\_Cruelty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theatre_of_Cruelty)

*Plays and playwrights to research:*

Antonin Artaud – The Spurt of Blood

Jean Genet – The Maids <https://web.mit.edu/jscheib/Public/phf/themaids.pdf>

Monologue: Solange’s very last monologue from the above script

### For Theatre of the Absurd:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJ7w2I83ba4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpgOcWZHEcY>

*Excellent breakdown of themes in this resource*

<https://d2wasljt46n4no.cloudfront.net/files/Community/Resources/2015/Endgame%20On%20Cue.pdf>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00021q7>

*Key thinkers around Theatre of the Absurd and philosophy*

- Sarte  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bQsZxDQgzU>
- Camus  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQOfbObFOCw&has\\_verified=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQOfbObFOCw&has_verified=1)

*Plays and playwrights to research*

- Samuel Beckett – Waiting for Godot, Endgame, Happy Days, Play, Not I
- Eugene Ionesco – Rhinoceros, The Lesson
- Edward Albee – The Goat of Who Is Sylvia? Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? The Zoo Story

**Monologue Script**

[http://poeticsofaging.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Rehm\\_Winnie\\_from\\_Samuel\\_Becketts\\_Happy\\_Days.pdf](http://poeticsofaging.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Rehm_Winnie_from_Samuel_Becketts_Happy_Days.pdf)

## WHAT TO READ

Read plays by:

- Antonin Artaud
- Steven Berkoff
- Samuel Beckett
- Philip Ridley
- Morgan Lloyd Malcolm
- Charlie Josephine
- Sarah Kane
- Lucy Kirkwood
- Bryony Lavery
- Andrea Levy
- Jasmine Lee Jones
- Lucy Prebble

## WHAT TO WATCH

Any and all live theatre! Consider the West End, Off-West End and Fringe Theatre

Check-out [www.londontheatre.com](http://www.londontheatre.com) for What's On

## QUERIES

Please contact Ms Brown, Head of Drama  
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