Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma in Performing Arts

Year 12 Preparation Guide - Part 2

For Year 11 Students Entering Year 12

This guide is designed to help you prepare for key units in your Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma in Performing Arts. Use this over the summer to research, reflect, and build your confidence for September.

Unit 1: Prepare to Work in the Performing Arts Sector

Overview: Understand how the performing arts industry operates and how to build a sustainable career.

Preparation Tasks:

- Research major performing arts organisations and unions (e.g., Equity, Spotlight).
- Explore job roles, career routes, and freelance working structures.
- Learn key terms: portfolio career, casting director, repertory theatre.

Suggested Activity:

Create a poster or digital presentation that maps out career pathways in performing arts.

Unit 2: Proposal for a Commissioning Brief

Overview: Learn to respond creatively and professionally to an arts-based brief.

Preparation Tasks:

- Find examples of past commissioning briefs in youth theatre or education settings.
- Practice outlining ideas with a clear audience, purpose, and justification.
- Look at arts funding platforms (e.g., Arts Council) for inspiration.

Suggested Activity:

Draft a mini-proposal for a workshop series or small performance aimed at a local audience.

Unit 3: Influential Performance Practice

Overview: Study influential practitioners and movements that shaped modern performance.

Preparation Tasks:

- Research: Brecht (Epic Theatre), Stanislavski (Naturalism), Pina Bausch (Dance Theatre), DV8.
- Watch practitioner-based performances and analyse their techniques.
- Compare two styles: What's different? What's similar?

Suggested Activity:

Create a comparison chart of two practitioners, listing style, method, and historical context.

Unit 9: Acting Technique

Overview: Develop and refine acting skills through exploration of different acting methods and exercises.

Preparation Tasks:

- Research methods such as Meisner Technique, Method Acting, and Laban Movement.
- Watch monologue performances and analyse delivery and technique.
- Practice short monologues from plays or film scripts.

Suggested Activity:

Record yourself performing a short monologue and reflect on voice, movement, and emotion.

Final Tips for Summer Preparation:

- Stay active in your discipline (e.g., acting classes, workshops, performances).
- Keep a creative journal with sketches, thoughts, or reviews of shows.
- Visit live performances or watch theatre online (Digital Theatre+, National Theatre YouTube).
- Reflect on your own strengths and set goals for the year ahead.

We look forward to working with you - come prepared to challenge yourself, grow, and shine!