***How has your study of Greek Theatre helped you to appreciate the origins of Western Theatre practices?***

Ancient Greek Theatre has allowed for society's appreciation of the standard and quantity of the theatre that continues to perform today. The origin of acting and performance was important as it progressed and transformed into common features and element's of today's society. The techniques used in Ancient Greece, such as characterization, spacing and form made the value of theatre we take for granted today.

The development and detail of a character in Ancient Greece created an obvious distinctiveness that allows for an audience to identify a character. In any theatre performance, whether it be a movie or a live play, characters a often defined by their costume, facial expressions and movements. The masks used in the Origins of Theatre in Greece were over exaggerated and colour-coded to the theme being expressed. Masks are still used today, but other options that create similar results are available, such as makeup and face paint. Costume and movements are also key elements to the building of a character. Although the costumes were fairly plain in Ancient Greece, they still defined and assisted the audience in identifying which social class, gender or age they were playing. Because only males were employed as actors, it was quite often that a male would take on a feminine role, which consequently meant changing the style of dress and the specific movements for a character. All these elements are all found throughout time, with little to no changes in how they work and what affect they make on the audience. For example, the stereotypical clown uses colours and shapes to present it's emotions and uses exaggerated and large movements to show in full detail of his actions.

The acting styles used are fairly different today. Instead of the over the top, exaggerated movements, gestures and voicing that the Ancient Greek actors achieved, acting styles are more controlled and individualized towards a certain character. This is because the change and adaptation of smaller theatres, which in turn don't require as much 'largeness' to the acting done by the performers.

The theatres used in Ancient Greece conveyed intelligent thought-processing as the structure of the amphitheatres allowed for much voice amplification. The round, tear-drop seating is similar to theatres today, though the acoustics are much more impressive and detailed into the theatre.

The themes used in Ancient Greece are those of which we still see today on stage live, and on television. Tragedy and comedy are two widely used themes, and are often found to be written about and performed in a wide variety of areas Western culture. William Shakespeare, one of the most famous writers of all time, favoured writing tragedies and comedies over other styles. Such plays include *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Macbeth*. Both themes were used by other writers, and tragedy is often found in modern soap operas, and comedy in family shows.

The adaptation of Ancient Greek Theatre created and improved Western Theatre practices throughout history, up until today. Using several techniques such as characterisation, staging, acting styles and themes, Western Theatre can be appreciated with it's excellent quality of products.