



Sixth Form Preparation for Success

Welcome to Film Studies

EDUQAS A Level Film Studies specification A670QS



Introduction

This is a new subject to you, but one you already know a great deal about!

Ever wondered why there hasn't been a black superhero movie until this year? What do we mean by a 'George Lucas film'? Why do some films make us cry/laugh/scream and others don't?

So let's use that knowledge to start doing proper Film Studies!

Part I – Y11 into 12 Film Studies Specific Bridging Work

To be completed May – Sept

Remember that prizes will be awarded for 'exceptional' work that demonstrates effort above expected !

a) Investigate places of interest

Given the circumstances, you may not be able to physically visit the places suggested below so try the websites and email their customer services with any questions – people love to hear from young people who show an interest in their line of work!

If at all possible after the lockdown visit a cinema and watch a film – who went with you? Why did you choose that film? Were there any stars in the film? How would you rate it (out of 5)? Why? – write a typed film review of about a page.

Alternatively, watch a film at home. Consider whether and why the experience is different from a cinema screening. Watch a particular scene in the film – look at where the camera is positioned and consider the choices made. Also, what sounds are used - how do they make you feel? Is that the film producer's intention or are reacting against the intended reaction? Why is that?

Go to film websites of film museums eg <https://www.scienceandmediamuseum.org.uk/> , <http://londonfilmmuseum.com/> and see if there are virtual tours. What did you learn that you didn't know before?

b) Wider reading

What is Context?

<http://www.davidbordwell.net/essays/doing.php>

Political Context

<http://documents.routledgeinteractive.s3.amazonaws.com/9780765635976/01%20A%20Guide%20for%20the%20Political%20Analysis%20of%20Movies.pdf>

Technological context

<https://memeburn.com/2013/02/9-tech-innovations-that-changed-the-film-industry-through-the-ages/>
<http://www.mpa.org/technology-and-innovation> Detailed explanation of representation
<http://www.mediaknowall.com/gcse/keyconcepts/gcse/keycon.php?pageID=represent>

Some interesting approaches to representation:

<http://lessonbucket.com/vce-media/unit-1/representation/representations-in-film/>

On the issues of lack of diversity in Hollywood:

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2016/jan/18/hollywoods-race-problem-film-industry-actors-of-colour>

How the representation of women is improving.

An article in the NY times: https://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/07/movies/fall-arts-preview-representation-of-female-characters-in-movies-is-improving.html?_r=0
<http://mediasmarts.ca/digital-media-literacy/media-issues/gender-representation>

Great overview of representation of ethnicity:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/zwpq39q/revision>

Overviews of representation of age:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/zx6qsg8/revision>
http://www.mediaknowall.com/as_alevel/alevkeyconcepts/alevelkeycon.php?pageID=age

Very useful article from The Guardian including clips:

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/filmblog/2012/jul/04/what-films-best-portray-old-age>

A useful PDF:

The Shot and Mise-en-Scene Use of colour in storytelling:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXgFcNUWqX0>

Aesthetics/Colour Palettes <http://mymodernmet.com/cinema-palettes/>

Read film reviews from quality newspapers such as the The Guardian (it's free), and see how they are written. Try writing your own focusing on the way the film is made.

Watch the Crash course videos on Youtube on the History of Cinema – very funny, engaging and informative. All these and more can be found on my Youtube Page D Lowndes Sanderson. Look for the Film section and take your pick.

c) Compulsory task

Watch **Sicario**. This can be found on <https://web.microsoftstream.com/group/0acaa1bd-a5b9-4691-8b8c-e1235203ab99> (sign in with your school email and password and you should be able to view it). If there are any issues with this then a number of scenes are available on Youtube which are relevant

Then watch :

1. Film School Rejects site article '**Heavy Traffic: Hearing Sicario**' for sound,

The following articles on No Film School site:

2. '**11 Scenes from 'Sicario'** ,
3. **How the Color in 'Sicario' Reveals the Battle Between Good & Evil**
4. **The Cinematographer's Job Is Not to Create Amazing Images: Roger Deakins on Shooting 'Sicario'**
5. **How Denis Villeneuve Made the Gridlock Scene in 'Sicario' Unbearably Tense**

Using these short documentaries and any other reviews and/or analysis of the film, choose one scene (not the gridlock scene, but you can use this to help you) and do an in-depth focus on it (about a page), looking at lighting, colour, acting, camera movement, editing. Comment how these affect you, the spectator, and why? Do you think that this was the filmmaker's intention?

d) Stretch!

Choose your favourite director (if you can't decide choose your favourite film and see who directed it and try to watch other films s/he has directed or at least key scenes on Youtube). Read as much as you can on this person. Write a biography of her/him focussing on the films in particular. See if you can see any ideas linking their films.

Part II - Year 12 Head Start! for completion June – September

(a) Course Specification link

Here's the link to the specification. It gives all the information I need to help build an A Level Film Studies course. Have a look at pages 9 and 11 especially; although not all of the rest of the specification is relevant as we don't teach the majority of the films. These give an overview of which ideas and concepts you will be studying of the two years. The following pages explore in more detail what these ideas mean and how they are used in the course:

https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/film-studies-as-a-level/#tab_overview

(b) Departmental Resources Link

Here's a link to my sharepoint page. On here you'll find all the resources I'll be using for the next two years plus a lot of additional material. It's a useful start to get used to the level of analysis required at this level. Have a look and familiarise yourself with some of the films we will be studying.

https://mcauleyorg-my.sharepoint.com/personal/dls_mcauley_org_uk/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FALevelFilmStudies%2FShared%20Documents&listurl=https%3A%2F%2Fmcauleyorg%2Esharepoint%2Ecom%2Fsites%2FALevelFilmStudies%2FShared%20Documents

(c) Text book link

Text books will be available for use in class, but you may choose to invest in your own text book in which you can make your own notes. Owning your own is not a course requirement. Below are links to the books we use:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/WJEC-Eduqas-Film-Studies-Level/dp/1911208446/ref=sr_1_9?dchild=1&keywords=film+studies&qid=1590054371&sr=8-9

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Eduqas-Studies-Level-Revision-Guide/dp/1912820358/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=film+studies&qid=1590054418&sr=8-3

(d) Media links

This is a link to my Youtube page which has links to a number of relevant (and occasionally) amusing documentaries that are related to the course. Feel free to look at them and any others you find that come up!

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5_UuWveR5A05ukFXcWoKobJkpmLytMQE

A superb series still available on BBC iplayer is **Mark Kermode's Secrets of Cinema**. Each week he analyses, in a fun way, a genre such as Spy films or Teen movies with loads of clips as reference. Here's a link to it:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0bbn5pt>

Also here's a link to a series of intros to a programme made in the 1980s/90s called Moviedrome. The series on BBC always started with Alex Cox (a film maker) giving a short talk as to why the film about to be shown should be seen as a classic. After, the film would be shown. Watch the intros and if you can find the film itself; some are available for free.

This was my Film Studies course as I grew up.

Warning! Some films need to be approached with care as they will have an 18 rating.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbFbLvJse3mqCpkGvCf7i9yFXdMD8k9LR>

(e) Ted Talks - this is a great talk about how to construct a story, a prerequisite for Film Studies.

https://www.ted.com/talks/andrew_stanton_the_clues_to_a_great_story?referrer=playlist-the_power_of_film#t-894842

All of this will keep you going for a while!

Film has been the dominant cultural form for the last 125 years. It is seen as a form of mass culture, and art. Its effect is so pervasive that in 1995, to mark the hundredth anniversary of the motion picture the Vatican issued a list of forty five noteworthy films, each of which is distinguished by special religious, artistic or moral worth. Film, therefore, is an important medium through which the social and moral teachings of the Church can be supported.

So enjoy and learn at the same time and I'll see you in September.