

Film Studies GCSE

Overview

In this dynamic, creative, and challenging course, students learn how a range of possible meanings are conveyed through Film Form (cinematography, mise-en-scene, editing, sound) and analyse key scenes in the set films. The course also encourages the understanding of key issues and developments within history, society, and culture because all the films we study have been purposefully chosen to offer rich and interesting analysis and represent different time periods and moments in history showing alternative representations of culture and people. Students will also develop their creativity by using the knowledge gained from the study of film to make their own short film or screenplay.

The analytical skills and the historical and cultural perspectives students develop are eminently transferable across a range of other subjects, like English and History. If students pursue the screenplay option, writing skills for English will be enhanced. The aesthetic aspects of film study and production are linked to skills required of Art and Textiles students. We have shown in the past that these skills will improve their opportunities to study a variety of academic subjects at A Level and beyond. All the local universities, including Durham, offer courses in Film as do many major universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. We have many ex-students who have gone on to university and are now using their talents in areas of the media and some, like Mrs. Owen's husband, who has his own award-winning small film company working directly in the film/television industry. At our first attempt, one of our last A Level students won the exam board's short film award of 2019 and she is now studying filmmaking at university. However, other students have gone on to study a variety of subjects, like English Language or Literature, Art, Journalism, Modern Languages, Textiles and Media.

Do not take the course if you expect to sit around watching films all day. It will not happen. We have a good track record of people who work hard and go on to do well at A Level and beyond.

Topics and Course Structure

We follow the EDUQAS specification:

- 30% coursework
- 70% final exam.

All units study the way Film Form creates meanings for the audience. Each unit has its own specialist areas. The exam is divided into two components and each exam lasts one and half hours.

Year 10 GCSE: – at the moment, we prefer to start with Component 2. A set text (film) is studied for each unit.

Component 2: Narrative, Representation and Film Style

- Contemporary British Film – We study how a film's aesthetic is created.
- Global English Language Film – We look at the narrative, context, and representation.
- Global non-English Language Film - The study area is representation of characters or country or society or culture.

Component 1: Key Developments in US Film

- Integrated Study of Film, including Genre: Comparative US Film Study: A Cold War American sci-fi film, *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1956). Genre, representation, and context are particularly significant here.

Year 11 GCSE:

Component 1: Key Developments in US Film (cont.)

- Integrated Study of Film, including Genre: The Comparative US Film Study: A more recent American sci-fi film, *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial* (1982). We look at genre, representation, and context.
- US Independent Film - focus on Specialist Writing. The film is studied with specific reference to a piece of critical writing.
- Key Developments in Film and Film Technology – a five-mark exam answer: essentially a memory test that asks students to retrieve information studied during Y11.

Component 3: Production

A practical production where students have the choice of making a short film extract (one and half to two minutes long) or a screenplay extract (800-1000 words) from a list of specified genres. Their production will be informed by the knowledge of cinema acquired during the rest of the course. The screenplay will be accompanied by a shooting script to note details of cinematography, editing, timing and sound to match one minute of the screenplay. Both will require a written evaluation of 750 – 850 words.

Additional Information & Who to contact

- For more information please follow the link to the course specification on the exam board website <https://www.edugas.co.uk/ed/qualifications/film-studies-gcse/>
- If you require any further information or have any questions, then please contact Mrs Owens via email – Sarah.Owens@consilium-at.com

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