

Media Studies AS Level (AQA)

Bridging Booklet



AS Units

Unit 1 – MEST 1 – Investigating Media (50% of AS Course)

Assessment: 2hr examination

For this unit you will be studying a variety of Media texts from TV adverts to films to news articles. In addition you will focus on a variety of texts from your case study – documentary and hybrid forms. You will study film and TV documentaries across a variety of ‘**Media Platforms**’. For example:

Broadcasting – the film / TV documentary itself; a TV advert for the film / programme

E-media / Internet – a blog about the film / TV programme or the official film / TV/Film website

Print – a magazine or newspaper review of the film / TV documentary

What AQA says about preparation of your case study topic: ‘candidates should investigate how documentaries are presented across the media, primarily in (audio-visual) broadcasting and cinema platforms, but also the treatment of these in newspapers and magazines, the internet and portable electronic devices. They should study the production and reception of documentary products including the ways in which audiences may consume, participate and respond to documentaries and their coverage.’

The examination for this unit involves answering four questions on two unseen Media texts (moving image or print-based) and then answering one extended question based on your cross-media case study (documentaries). During lessons, you will watch a range of documentary films, some taken from the list below:

Amy (2015)

The Emperor’s New Clothes (2015)

Deep Web (2015)

Gascoigne (2015)

Blackfish (2013)

Searching for Sugar Man (2012)

The Imposter (2012)

Life in a Day (2011)

Catfish (2010)

Exit Through the Gift Shop (2010)

The Cove (2009)

Man on Wire (2008)

Anvil! The story of Anvil (2008)

The Bridge (2006)

For a more comprehensive list of documentary films, try:

<http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/watch-online/>

http://www.rottentomatoes.com/top/bestofrt/top_100_documentary_movies/

Unit 2 – MEST2 – Creating Media (50% of AS Course)

Assessment: Coursework

In this unit you will produce two linked media artefacts taken from two of the three media platforms studied in *Unit 1: Investigating Media*. Examples might include a moving image trailer, a moving image TV sequence, three pages of a website, a magazine feature article. You will also write a single, accompanying evaluation (1500 words) and produce pre-production materials for both pieces.

The pre-production materials, the production work and the evaluation should demonstrate your understanding of media concepts and an element of prior research into the production area will be necessary and will be evidenced in the pre-production materials.

Study Tasks



Below you will find three study tasks (one in Task A and two in Task B) to help you to prepare for the AS Level course. **You should complete these before the first lesson in September.** Please ensure you come to class ready to discuss your thoughts on the briefs and the documentary you have seen. Bring your key words to the first lesson too.

Task A

Read the MEST2 2017 coursework briefs to get you thinking about the practical coursework required on the course. There is no need at this stage to produce any work for this unit.

Task B

1. Watch at least one documentary film – either from the list on page 2, or one of your own choosing. This is so that you can come to lessons in September with some ideas about documentary narrative etc.
2. Find out the meanings of the following key media terms / phrases. Write down their definitions and, if you feel it is appropriate, support with an example:
 - Denotation
 - Connotation
 - Mise-en-scène
 - Diegetic sound
 - Non-diegetic sound
 - Codes and conventions
 - Media language
 - Media Institutions
 - Media Audiences
 - Representation
 - Genre
 - Verisimilitude
 - Media convergence

Useful Information

If you have any questions about the study tasks or any other part of the course, please email me during the holidays: rcohen@plymstockschool.org.uk

Wider Reading

To become a proficient student of the Media, you need to keep yourself informed about current issues, developments and debates. There are many ways of doing this: listening to the radio, watching and reading the news (online or on TV), surfing the internet, going to the cinema, watching TV, reading magazines and newspapers...

Some useful websites:

<https://brianair.wordpress.com/film-theory/glossary-of-media-terminology/>

- this site will help you get to know some of the new Media terminology required for the course.

Broadcasting

- www.bbc.co.uk
- www.itn.co.uk
- www.channel4.co.uk
- www.channel5.co.uk
- www.cnn.com
- www.sky.com

News and Newspapers

- www.ft.com
- www.independent.co.uk
- www.mediaguardian.co.uk
- www.reuters.com
- www.bbc.co.uk

Film

- www.bbfc.co.uk
- <http://uk.imdb.com>
- www.cyberfilmschool.com/
- www.empireonline.com
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/movies/>
- www.bfi.org.uk
- www.filmeducation.org
- www.screenonline.org.uk

Advertising

- www.brandrepublic.com
- www.asa.org.uk
- www.btaa.co.uk

Academic Websites

- www.aber.ac.uk/media/
- www.theory.org.uk/main.htm