

Film Studies

Frequently Asked Questions

What can you do with a Film Studies GCSE?

It is not specifically required for any A Level or further education course. However, if you enjoy the GCSE then you may wish to go on to take Film Studies or Media Studies at A Level.

Will I enjoy the course?

You will enjoy it if...

- You have a genuine interest in films – not just for viewing pleasure but also for the way narratives are constructed, and how audiences are engaged by the films.
- You are keen to learn about World cinema and different budget film-making – things that lie beyond the Hollywood film industry.
- You have an interest in film theory or wish to learn about this.
- You like discussing texts in small groups or as a class.
- You find writing analytical essays and short answer analyses easy / rewarding.

The emphasis of the GCSE is on film STUDIES, rather than film-making. So it's much more about watching and analysing film structure and narrative and learning about the history and development of the industry – rather than making films.

Can I choose which films to study in the GCSE?

Unfortunately, the choice of film texts is limited by the exam board, AQA, and your teacher will have chosen these at the start of the course. You will have to study all the designated texts for each exam unit to pass the course.

What kind of texts will be studied?

You will study a broad range of films from different countries and time periods. Example texts might be: 'Rebel without a Cause' (1955), 'Ferris Bueller's Day Off' (1986), 'Whiplash' (2014), District 9 (South Africa, 2009), 'Let The Right One In' (Sweden, 2008) and 'Attack the Block' (UK, 2011)

Is the Film Studies course hard?

There are a lot of different film texts to study over the two-year course, in addition to film theory and an element of production work. So...

- If you don't enjoy analysing texts and writing about them in essay-style formats, the course will be difficult.
- If you find it difficult to manage your time, or meet deadlines, this course will be a struggle for you, especially as there is a heavily-weighted coursework component which will require you to work independently to a greater extent (when compared to the exam component).
- If you don't like the idea of producing your own film script or extract from a film, then you will find the course hard to complete.



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Is there a lot of film-making involved on the course?

No, the GCSE focuses mainly on watching and analysing film structure and narrative and learning about the history and development of the industry – rather than making films.

What is the practical / coursework element of the course?

The practical element is known as the NEA and typical assignments might be to plan, film. The NEA makes up 30% of your final GCSE grade. **Students will plan, draft and write a screenplay for a film from a chosen genre (1000 words minimum). Alternatively,** Students plan, film and edit a short film (2 to 2 and a half minutes) from a choice of genres: **crime; sci-fi; war; horror;** the **teenage film** or the **musical**.

Do I need to know how to make a film or use media technology to take this course?

It would be useful if you at least like using camera equipment or your phone for making videos, but you don't need to be some sort of digital expert before the start of the course. If you hate the idea of this type of moving image production work then there is the option of writing a script instead.

Is there a textbook that can support the learning of this course?

Yes – the WJEC/EDUQAS student book covers all units and is priced at £24.95

https://www.illuminatepublishing.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=131

What is the exam board for GCSE Film Studies?

It is EDUQAS and here is a link to their website: https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/film-studies-gcse/#tab_overview

If you have any further queries, please contact Miss R Cohen, Head of Media and Film:
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