

Film Studies

Examination Board: EDUQAS (WJEC)

Staff Lead

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Why Study Film Studies?

Do you enjoy watching movies - either for the action, the mystery or to follow the path of a character? Do you sometimes find yourself questioning the end of a story or criticising the plot in a film? If so, then Film Studies A level could be the perfect next step for you.

Film Studies is a lively and exciting course that is designed to introduce students to some of the key concepts that underpin the study of films. You will study a wide variety of films on the course, broadening your knowledge and appreciation of films and different styles and genres of film, including mainstream and independent American and British films from the past and the present, as well as more recent examples of world cinema. This course will allow you to develop your knowledge and understanding of film theory as well as the range of meanings and responses films can generate. You will enjoy debating or answering questions such as: *Why are films so important to audiences?* Or *The director is always the most important influence on a film—Discuss.* Or *Compare how far the two films you have studied reflect the times in which they were made.*

An ability to analyse a variety of film texts from a range of genres, formulate opinions and reason carefully are all key skills that this course will enable you to develop. You will

produce coherent arguments and commit these to essay format, therefore a good grade in English GCSE would be an advantage. Students will be expected to do a substantial amount of reading and have a genuine interest in film and its various cultural and historical contexts. Knowledge of film theory and critical debates will also be tested. Finally, there is a practical element (NEA) which will involve a written component and use of ICT equipment for film editing / making or production of a digitally photographed storyboard. Therefore, a capacity for independent study and ICT skills are a definite advantage.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

Film Studies provides a useful foundation for any Arts degree and provides a good background for a large number of careers such as: film making, set design, journalism, marketing, television, teaching and many others.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5. A minimum of a grade 5 in GCSE English Language and a grade 5 in GCSE Film Studies if studied at KS4. You do not have to have studied GCSE Film in order to take this subject at A level.

Recommended: GCSE English Language grade 6 or higher.

Module	A Level Content - What's Assessed?
Component 1: Varieties of film and filmmaking 2½ hour Written Paper 35% of the A Level	This exam paper assesses knowledge and understanding of six feature-length films. Section A is a comparative question where students are required to discuss two Hollywood films, each from a different time period within the twentieth century. Section B requires the study of two more modern American film texts, from 2005 onwards. Section C requires the study of two British films released from 1995 onwards.
Component 2: Global filmmaking perspectives 2½ hour Written Paper 35% of the A Level	This exam paper assesses knowledge and understanding of five feature-length films (or their equivalent) Section A requires the study of two global films, one European and one produced outside Europe. Section B requires the study of one documentary film. Section C requires the study of silent film or group of films Section D requires the study of film from 1960-2000 which are considered 'experimental' films
Component 3: Production Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) 30% of the A Level	Students create their own texts from a range of options outlined by AQA from a choice of production briefs, along with an accompanying written evaluation of their work as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Either a short film (4-5 minutes) or a screenplay for a short film (1600-1800 words) plus a digitally photographed storyboard of a key section from the screenplay.• An evaluative written analysis of their production (1600-1800 words).