

A-Level Film Studies Preparation Guide



Congratulations for achieving a place on A Levels here at Bury College and welcome to A Level Film Studies!

You've probably been wondering how studying A Levels will compare to your previous studies so we have put together a quick guide and some activities to help you get ready for starting in September.

Items to bring to lessons

1. A high level of attendance and punctuality are essential to success in Film Studies.
2. Essential study equipment such as pen, paper etc.
3. A passion for Film!

Uniform / Clothing Required

N/A

Learning to Learn

Film is one of the main cultural innovations of the 20th century and a major art form of the last hundred years. Those who study it characteristically bring with them a high degree of enthusiasm and excitement for what is a powerful and culturally significant medium, inspiring a range of responses from the emotional to the reflective. Film Studies consequently makes an important contribution to the curriculum, offering the opportunity to investigate how film works both as a medium of representation and as an aesthetic medium.

The WJEC Eduqas A level in Film Studies aims to enable you to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- a diverse range of film, including documentary, film from the silent era, experimental film and short film
- the significance of film and film practice in national, global and historical contexts
- film and its key contexts (including social, cultural, political, historical and technological contexts)
 - how films generate meanings and responses
 - film as an aesthetic medium
 - the different ways in which spectators respond to film.

It also aims to enable you to:

- apply critical approaches to film and
- apply knowledge and understanding of film through screenwriting.

With this in mind, to assist your learning and enable you to perform to your potential, I would expect:

- You must review your notes by making flash-cards or other methods to assist your learning of the material.
- You do not leave all learning until the end of the year before exams, this volume of work cannot be learnt in a few days.
- You must use MyVLE for extra resources and questions.

Planning for Exams

Component 1: Varieties of film and filmmaking Written examination: 2½ hours 35% of qualification

Section A: Hollywood 1930-1990 (comparative study)

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to two Hollywood films, one from the Classical Hollywood period (1930-1960) and the other from the New Hollywood period (1961-1990).

Section B: American film since 2005 (two-film study)

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to two American films, one mainstream film and one contemporary independent film.

Section C: British film since 1995 (two-film study)

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to two British films.

Component 2: Global filmmaking perspectives Written examination: 2½ hours 35% of qualification

Section A: Global film (two-film study)

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to two global films: one European and one produced outside Europe.

Section B: Documentary film

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to one documentary film.

Section C: Film movements – Silent cinema

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to one silent film or group of films.

Section D: Film movements – Experimental film (1960-2000)

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to one film option.

Component 3: Production Non-exam assessment 30% of qualification

This component assesses one production and its evaluative analysis. Learners produce:

- a screenplay for a short film (1600-1800 words) plus a digitally photographed storyboard of a key section from the screenplay
- an evaluative analysis (1600 - 1800 words).

Recommended Activities

With Film, the best advice I can give you is watch anything and everything. Step out of your comfort zone of Marvel or Horror films and look at a range of filmmaking. Look at Classic Hollywood films from the Golden Age in the 1930's or 1940s, explore World Film and watch something that is subtitled or just look at films made in the UK- we make amazing films in Britain! YouTube is brilliant for exploring short films, there are so many on there.

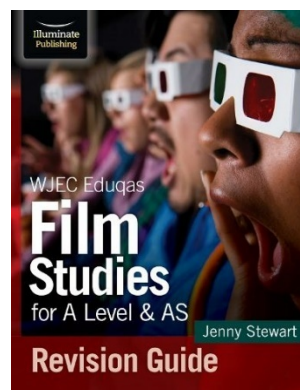
Have a look on this list for some inspiration. The number one film on here is the first film we start with!

<https://www.bfi.org.uk/greatest-films-all-time>

Eduqas Website if you wanted to look at the types of films we will study in class.

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

Recommended Textbooks



WJEC Eduqas Film Studies for A Level & AS
 Ellen Cheshire, Mark Ramey, Jenny Stewart, Lisa Wardle, Welsh Joint Education Committee (issuing body)

Recommended Websites

For history and context

<https://www.bfi.org.uk/>

<https://www.intofilm.org/>

To watch films some examples below away from Netflix and Prime

<https://www.channel4.com/channel/film4>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer>

Recommended Video Tutorial

40 days to learn film <https://vimeo.com/399407221>

Mark Kermode's Secrets of Cinema is a superb introduction to film

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b0bbn5pt/mark-kermodes-secrets-of-cinema>

Life Cinematic on iPlayer has filmmakers discussing influences on their work

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000dt6y>

Recommended social media platforms or pages to follow

BFI, The Academy, Indiewire, Screenplayed (for script writing), cinematography (to see how crazy camera operators are to get THE shot).

Podcasts to listen to

Edith Bowman's Soundtracking podcast

<https://www.edithbowman.com/soundtracking>

Simon Mayo and Mark Kermode Radio 5 podcast

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00lvdrj>

Futurelearn free film courses

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/collections/filmmaking>