

FILM STUDIES (GCSE)

Examination Board

WJEC Eduqas

C670QS

Film is an important part of many people's lives. Those who choose to study it characteristically bring with them a huge enthusiasm and excitement for film which constantly motivates them in their studies. They experience a powerful medium which inspires a range of responses from the emotional to the reflective as they are drawn into characters, their narratives and the issues films raise. The root of that power is the immersive audio-visual experience film offers – one which can exploit striking cinematography, composition and locations as well as powerful music and sound. It is not surprising that many consider film to be the major art form of the last hundred years and that many feel it important to study a medium which has such a significant influence on the way people think and feel.

Overview of the course

Learners will develop their knowledge of US mainstream film by studying one film from the 1950s and one film from the later 70s and 80s, thus looking at two stages in Hollywood's development. In addition, they will be studying more recent films – a US independent film as well as films from Europe and the UK. Studying a diverse range of films from several different contexts is designed to give learners the opportunity to apply their knowledge and understanding of how films are constructed to their own filmmaking and screenwriting.

Course content

Component 1: Key Development in US Film

This component assesses knowledge & understanding of **three** US films chosen from a range of options.

Assessment consists of **four** questions on one pair of US mainstream films & **one** US independent film:

Section A: US film comparative study

- one stepped question on the first of the chosen pair of films (produced between 1930 & 1960)
- one stepped question on the second of the chosen pair of films (produced between 1961 & 1990)

Section B: Key developments in film & film technology

- one multi-part question on developments in film & film technology

Section C: US independent film

one question on one US independent film

Component 2: Global Film: Narrative, Representation & Film Style

This component assesses knowledge & understanding of **three** global films produced outside the US, chosen from a range of options.

Assessment consists of **three** questions in three sections:

- **Section A:** **one** stepped question on one global English language film
- **Section B:** **one** stepped question on one global non-English language film
- **Section C:** **one** stepped question on one contemporary UK film.

Component 3: Production

This component assesses the ability to apply knowledge & understanding of film to a production & its accompanying analysis. Learners produce:

- **one** genre-based film (**either** from a film **or** from a screenplay)
- **one** evaluative analysis of the production, where learners analyse & evaluate their production in relation to comparable, professionally-produced films or screenplays.

The production work consists of an extract from a film between two and two and half minutes long from one of a number of genres, including crime and horror. Films to be studied include: "Attack the Block" (2011), "Slumdog Millionaire" (2008), "Let the Right One In" (2008), "Invasion of the Bodysnatchers" (1956), "E.T." (1982) and "Whiplash" (2014). Some film choices may change from year to year.

How you will be assessed

Component 1	Written examination, 1 hour 30 minutes	35% of qualification
Component 2	Written examination, 1 hour 30 minutes	35% of qualification
Component 3	Non-exam assessment	30% of qualification

Students who successfully complete this course will be awarded a GCSE grades on a nine point scale: 1 – 9, where 9 is the best grade.

This course will enable you to build the following skills and knowledge:

- practical filmmaking skills, including editing
- creativity
- literacy
- leadership
- problem solving
- presentation skills
- research skills
- social, cultural, historical and political knowledgeanalysis

Post 16 courses available

Students have the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills further by following the WJEC Eduqas two year A level in Film Studies. (Students find that English and Performing Arts Level 3 qualifications complement Film Studies particularly well, although there are links with other subjects too). Once students reach the age of 16 the British Film Institute Film Academy Programme is available to apply for in Colchester and London. The BFI also offers workshops in different areas of the film industry across the country. These opportunities are designed to foster talent and encourage motivated individuals who would like to work in the British film industry and are often provided at no or minimal cost.