

The background of the slide features a teal and grey color scheme. In the lower portion, there are faint, stylized images of film reels and a film strip, suggesting a cinematic or media-related theme.

GETTING READY FOR A-LEVEL FILM STUDIES

Work for 2021

- Please do all the activities for weeks 1,2 and 3.
- Please put your name clearly on each piece.
- Please clearly label it all (in a folder): The English Department/
Y12 Film Studies Induction
- This work needs to be in the Academy on Monday, 12th July.
- The rest of the activities should be completed (with evidence) for your first lesson back in September.
- Many thanks.

WELCOME TO FILM STUDIES

This PowerPoint is designed to help introduce you to the subject at A-Level.

Over the weeks you'll cover a range of topics, ideas and activities and hopefully begin to get an appreciation of some of the things we'll be learning. Of course, this is just a small taster of the whole course but it has been designed to cover different skills and knowledge that will be useful to starting the course. The more you put into this work, the more rewarding you'll find it and the easier you'll find starting film in September.

The PDF that you've also been assigned explains the course and the work in more detail, this PowerPoint is to accompany that booklet. This means that if there is an activity which you can complete electronically, you'll be able to do so in this file. You can of course complete the work on paper, if you prefer. Many of the tasks also have an extension task too, so there is plenty to learn and enjoy. This PowerPoint also has a lot of links in it, so if you need a specific web page or online resource, you'll probably find it in here.

WEEK ONE



WEEK ONE

OUTCOMES:

1 Watch some films;

Choose a few films to watch this week. Your choice; old, new, different, familiar-totally up to you. There's a list of suggestions to choose from at the end of the booklet.

2. Apply relevant strategies to watch in an effective way but aim to:

- watch in a dark room;
- watch on the biggest screen you can;
- NOT have your phone nearby;
- watch the whole film in one go;
- avoid snacking and → Perfect in the current lockdown situation! 😊
- not talk to someone else.

3. Evaluate your reaction as a viewer:

Each time you watch a film, make a note of the film title, the director, year of release and a few sentences on your general reaction to it. You can do this on the next slide, on paper or by setting up a [letterboxd account](#) [which is a highly recommended way of tracking your viewing habits.](#)

WEEK ONE RESOURCES



Tracking your viewing

Film Title	Director	Year of Release	Your reaction to it	Reasons why you had that reaction

WEEK TWO



WEEK TWO

OUTCOMES:

1 Watch how others criticise film;

Use YouTube to find some 'visual essays' or film criticism channels. Watch a few examples. Use this playlist link if you're not sure where to start:

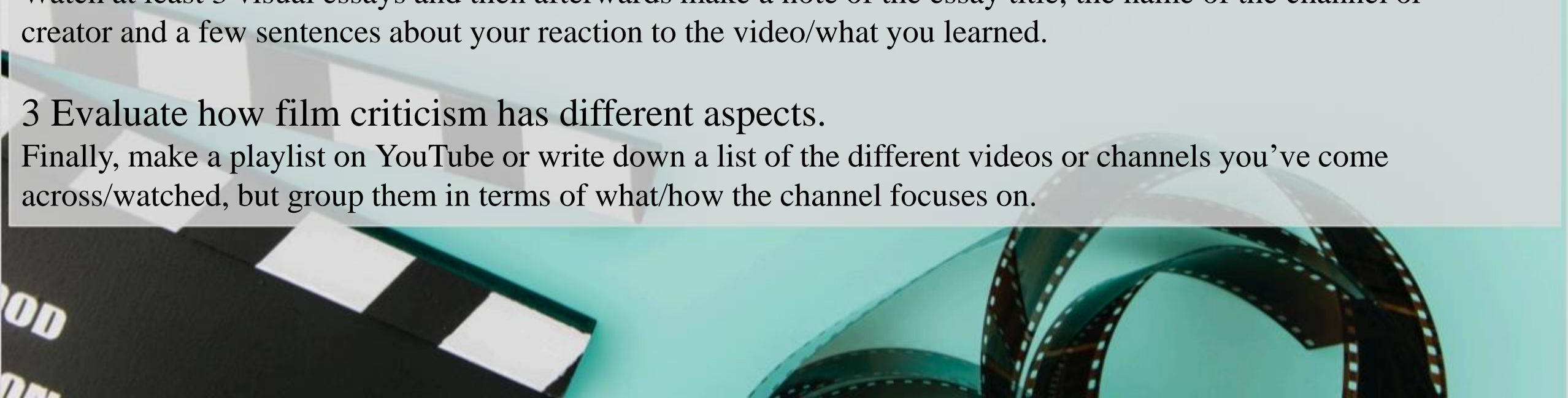
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9HivyjAKlc&list=PLeNerb9lxe3k_kt_ZDy44k65O__Rb6vR3

2 Appreciate how critical analysis can alter the effect of a film;

Watch at least 3 visual essays and then afterwards make a note of the essay title, the name of the channel or creator and a few sentences about your reaction to the video/what you learned.

3 Evaluate how film criticism has different aspects.

Finally, make a playlist on YouTube or write down a list of the different videos or channels you've come across/watched, but group them in terms of what/how the channel focuses on.



WEEK TWO RESOURCES



Watching Visual Essays

Essay Title	Channel name/Name of creator or author	Your reaction to it/What did you learn?

WEEK THREE



WEEK THREE

OUTCOMES:

1 Watch some clips from films;

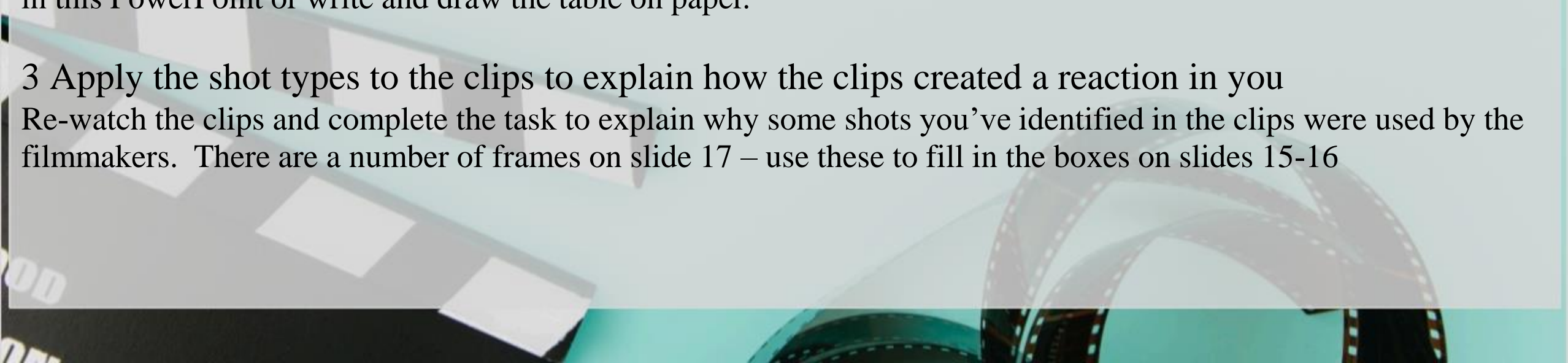
All you need to do is to watch and pay attention to what is happening in each. Watch again to establish how the clips make you feel or what you learn from each. Record this on the table in this PowerPoint or on paper. (Make sure you name the film).

2 Learn some key shot types

Using the worksheet in this PowerPoint, complete the activity in order to learn about a variety of shot sizes and camera angles. You can print and cut and stick the images, you can type or copy and paste the images in this PowerPoint or write and draw the table on paper.

3 Apply the shot types to the clips to explain how the clips created a reaction in you

Re-watch the clips and complete the task to explain why some shots you've identified in the clips were used by the filmmakers. There are a number of frames on slide 17 – use these to fill in the boxes on slides 15-16



WEEK THREE RESOURCES



Analysing film

Film Title	What happens in the clip	Your reaction to it/What did you learn?

Shot sizes

Example image	Shot name	Shot description	Dramatic effect
	Extreme long shot	The camera is at its furthest distance from the subject, emphasising the background. You can see the whole person or object and they will often be quite small.	
	Long shot	Shot which shows all or most of a fairly large subject (for example, a person) and usually much of the surroundings.	
	Medium long shot	In the case of a standing actor, the lower frame line cuts off their feet and ankles.	
	Medium shot	In such a shot the subject or actor and its setting occupy roughly equal areas in the frame. In the case of the standing actor, the lower frame passes through the waist. There is space for hand gestures to be seen.	
	Medium close-up	The setting can still be seen. The lower frame line passes through the chest of the actor; usually just the head and shoulders can be seen.	
	Close-up	A shot that shows a fairly small part of the scene, such as a character's face, in great detail so that it is the dominant object in the screen.	
	Big close-up	These focus attention on a person's feelings or reactions, and are sometimes used in interviews to show people in a state of emotional excitement, grief or joy. This usually is seen through a shot of forehead to chin or in the case of an object, taking up almost all of the screen.	
	Extreme close-up	When the screen is taken up by an image made of nothing but the image. You usually cannot see the background. This is often done to subject's faces when showing reactions or when highlighting detail.	

Camera Angles

Example image	Shot name	Shot description	Dramatic effect
	Over the shoulder shot	The camera literally looks over someone or somethings shoulder at another person, object or landscape. The shoulder being looked over is often in the shot.	
	Low angle	The camera is not at the 'regular' eye level and looks slightly up at the subject or person.	
	High angle	An angle where the camera is placed slightly above the subject or person.	
	Canted	An angle that is at an 'odd' angle to the position of the viewer so that it make the object, subject or people look as if it is tilted.	
	Bird's Eye	Named as it represents the angle from which a bird would view the object or person, essentially, from a very high angle looking down on someone or something.	
	Worm's Eye	So-called as it matches the apparent perspective of a worm. Is essentially a 'very low' shot that looks up at someone or something.	
	Eye level	The conventional angle for a camera to be placed and describes the 'flat' angle that the camera show where the subject or person is centred in the shot, so that the eyes, or centre of the object match our level in the middle of the screen.	









WEEK FOUR



WEEK FOUR

OUTCOMES:

1 Watch at least one film;

Watch at least one film this week, but the more you watch, the better the selection of clips you'll have to choose from, so it is advised that you watch a few if possible.

2 Analyse the film and choose a relevant and useful clip from it

Choose just one clip from one of the films. It should be around 3 minutes long, not just be a scene with lots of action or talking and ideally clearly communicate an idea or feeling. In this respect, scenes from near the beginning and end of films usually work best. Complete the first three columns in the table on slide 24 to summarise the narrative in the clip and explain what you learned/what your reaction was.

3 Evaluate how the shot types used in the clip create a particular emotion or how you learn something in the scene

Using the work from Week Three, evaluate how shot sizes and camera angles help to communicate the ideas or emotions in the scene. To do this, complete the last two columns in the table on Slide 24.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY: try and create a visual essay of the scene, like is done here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ye2LtC8z-Ig>
This is a useful guide on how to do so: <https://www.intofilm.org/resources/1372>

WEEK FOUR RESOURCES



Analysing a film of your choice

Film Title	What happens in the clip	Your reaction to it/What did you learn?	Shot you identified	How does this shot create a reaction?

WEEK FIVE



WEEK FIVE

OUTCOMES:

1 Understand what a critical theory is

On the next slide is an example of one of the critical theories that can be applied to film. This is just an introduction and we will spend a lot longer studying this and others in detail across the film course.

(Some others are mentioned in the booklet for the keen ones amongst you!)

To get started however, read and learn about this first one and maybe even watch a video or two on YouTube to help get an introduction.

2 Show an understanding of a critical theory

Demonstrate your learning and research.

3 Evaluate how a film of your choice can be analysed and ‘explained’ through application of the critical theory.

Finally, choosing a film that you know well or have been using a lot in previous work, apply the theory to the film. To do so, you will need to find a film that clearly suits the theory and then explain what you thought about the film if considered via the theory.

WEEK FIVE: CRITICAL THEORIES

Auteur

This is the first film theory, the one most associated with Film Studies. This is the theory of the director as the author. It is an incredibly popular theory and has given rise to the cult of the director.

Your Preparation: Look out for films by a particular director and watch a variety of films by them. What are the similarities in their style?



WEEK FIVE RESOURCES



Task 2: Auteur theory

Research Auteur theory and make notes using the following headings as guidance:

- Summary of the theory
- New information that you have learned
- Questions that you still have about this theory



Task 3: Auteur theory

Watch films by a director who could be considered an auteur. What is it that makes them an auteur? What are the common features of their film? How does understanding this theory add to your understanding of their films?



WEEK FIVE: Extension task

Here are some more theories that we study on the course. You could research them, if you have time:

Spectatorship

The theory of the audience and their relationship with the film. Exploring how messages/meanings are received.

Your Preparation: look up Active and Passive readings. How do they work?

Narrative Theory

A film's creation of the story/narrative can be explored through these theories.

Your Preparation: Explore how Todorov, Propp, Barthes and Levi-Strauss crafted narrative theories to explain stories.

Marxist

The theories of Karl Marx can be applied to films to explore how commerce and commodification are represented and in conflict.

Your Preparation: What are commodification, alienation, universal equivalent and any other terms you find.

Feminist approaches

From the 1970s onwards feminist approaches to film have provided a powerful way of deconstructing a male dominated art form.

Your Preparation: Look up Laura Mulvey's theory of the 'male gaze'. What does it mean? How does it work?

WEEK SIX



WEEK SIX

OUTCOMES:

1 Understand how to make a short film:

This is your final set of tasks but has the least amount of specific details that you must follow. The reason for this is that it is not easy to learn how to do this but what is most beneficial to you as a film student, is to begin by having fun and learning by making mistakes and trying new things. Begin this task by looking on YouTube for tutorials and guidance. A short playlist is included on slide 34 as well as recommendations of websites that may be of use.

2 Plan a short film:

Use the storyboards on the next few slides to plan what you film will look like in terms of the shots. You WILL need many more than 6 shots, so print the page as many times as you need. Use the guidance in the PDF to help, but it's important to remember; use your knowledge gained over the last 5 weeks. This means keeping things simple but done for a purpose: every shot should be used for a *reason*. If you're unable to print the storyboards to draw on, simply draw six rectangles on a piece of paper, using as many pieces of paper as you need to plan the whole film and complete that way.

3 Shoot and edit a short film.

Finally, choose an app or program that will let you edit and export your footage as a short film. You may find when editing that your short film suddenly seems different to your original intentions and this is completely fine-use the examples on the next page as a guide as to what to produce.

WEEK SIX RESOURCES



WEEK SIX: RESOURCES

1 Understand how to make a short film:

This is your final set of tasks but has the least amount of specific details that you must follow. The reason for this is that it is not easy to do this and what is most beneficial to you as a film student is to have fun and learn by making mistakes and trying new things. Begin this task by reading the included PDF called “Filmmaking Guide” and by looking on YouTube for tutorials and guidance. These short playlists may help:

How to shoot and edit video on your phone:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGyFPeVgI8U&list=PLeNerb9lxe3m8u14pNOgzzFcr8LN7vG07>

Examples of films shot on a smartphone:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLeNerb9lxe3lrkizQOstWb3rsBTI1Qkjw>

2 Plan a short film:

<https://www.intofilm.org/resources/1193>

<https://www.intofilm.org/resources/1146>

3 Shoot and edit a short film.

See included PDF for a list of apps to use. Below are videos that demonstrate some too.

Editing apps for Android: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_loohqAT3ac

Editing apps for iOS: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OmYcTPqJnms>

