



THE PRIORY ACADEMY

LSST

Sixth Form Induction Day
Film Studies Taster Session



FILM STUDIES A LEVEL (EDUQAS)

- Students will need a deep interest in film and will utilise many of the same analytical skills required by English Literature. It's rather like the poetry work that you've studied. You learn new terminology, analyse texts, make notes and then write essays. There's even the opportunity to research the context of old classics and develop your own interpretations!
- Film Studies is a discipline that deals with textual, theoretical, historical and critical approaches to films. Film Studies also explores our role as the spectator and the psychology behind audience response. We study an exciting range of films from diverse national and cultural backgrounds.



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How will I be assessed?

- There are two exams worth 35% each. Here you are asked to complete three or four essay style responses on individual films or pairs of films that you have studied.
- There is also a non-examination assessment where you can take the opportunity to produce your own short film or screenplay and storyboard to a brief set by the exam board. This more creative assessment task is worth 30% of the course.



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What texts will I study?

The texts offered by the exam board can vary from year to year and may include films with an 18 certificate. Your texts are likely to be:

- Vertigo (Hitchcock)
- Alien (Scott)
- Pan's Labyrinth (del Toro)
- Taxi Tehran (Panahi)
- Amy (Kapadia)
- La La Land (Chazelle)
- Captain Fantastic (Ross)
- Trainspotting (Boyle)
- This Is England (Meadows)
- Various Buster Keaton short films
- Cleo 5 de 7 (Varda)
- A variety of short films to inspire their coursework choice



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What was the last film that you watched that was.....

- Filmed in black and white?
- Filmed in a foreign language?
- Made by a very small, independent production company?
- Not a big budget Hollywood film?



Transition homework

- Choose two films from the list. They should be in two different languages OR at least two decades apart.
- Use the review worksheet to write a review of each film and then bring them in September



A previous Film Studies student said:

“A piece of advice I would give to Year 11 is to watch stuff out of your comfort zone. Don't stick to just one genre you really like, watch around and try to see a bit of everything so you can better compare between these different genres and recognise the potential strengths or weaknesses that they have”.



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Narrative is a key focus of the course...



How are stories told?

- Chronologically?
- Thematically?
- Ambiguity or gaps left for the audience to fill in
- Playing with your expectations and experiences



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Today's short film includes all of these elements. If you had to write a story that included them all, what would you write? Bullet point a short story plan.



**THE
ESCAPE
ROUTE →**



What genre do you imagine the film will be?

'Room 8' - Winner of the BAFTA for Short Film 2014

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJj_NMhYwf0

How did your ideas compare to what actually happened?

Could you have predicted this story even if we'd given you more clues?

At what point did you realise where the story was going? Or did you need to watch it twice?



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Extension tasks



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This film was created as part of a competition. All filmmakers were given a short piece of script they had to include:

- “What’s that?”
- “Nothing”
- “Stop”
- “Why?”
- “Don’t open it”
- “Why not?”
- “Because you might regret it”



Follow the links to look at some of the alternative competition entries.

- What do you like about them?
- How do they compare to 'Room 8'?
- Do they use the compulsory dialogue in similar ways?
- Do you find their approach to telling a story effective? Are their narrative conclusions as satisfying?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vz0jiFTiwFQ&list=RDCMUCANUo4YKNwcFmtDNG8lwCsQ&index=2>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFlekZnZUjo>



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