



FILM STUDIES A LEVEL

(WJEC/ EDUQAS)

Who is this course for?

Students will need a deep interest in film and will utilise many of the same analytical skills required by English Literature. 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.

What does the course involve?

- The language of film and how it influences the audience
- The different components of film; what we see, hear and the way film represents the real world
- How these components work upon us as spectators and how our responses differ according to; who we are, where we are and what we seek from a film.
- The British, Hollywood and World Cinema industries, mainstream and independent cinema, historical and modern cinema.
- Who produces films, how they are funded, how they are created, how we get to see them and how we are convinced that we want to see them at all through marketing.

We will look at a diverse range of films. We study films from classic Hollywood cinema starring screen icons such as James Stewart, to new Hollywood, with challenging films from directors such as Guillermo Del Toro. We also study Independent Cinema, World Cinema and case studies on British Cinema and Silent Cinema.

How will I be assessed?

Film Studies A level is assessed through a combination of exam and controlled assessment. Analytical writing is a large part of this course. Students need to be able to write four essays in one of the exams, so the ability to write detailed essays that incorporate theory and to engage in wider reading outside of lessons will be essential. Coursework is worth 30% and is a mixture of critical analysis and creative work, which could include making your own short film or screenplay. There are two examinations worth 35% with a focus on the different case study films.

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. This year students have studied the films below, alongside other options:

- 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
- A variety of short films to inspire their coursework choice