

Course: WJEC Eduqas A-Level Film Studies [A670QS A Level]

Pre-Course Tasks

Task 1: Understanding film form

A-Level Film Studies will take you from viewing film as a piece of social entertainment to the analytical study of it as an art form. It is similar to the way in which you study a piece of literature. However, there is a whole new world of terminology to learn to help you analyse this visual/audio medium. This come under the following 5 main techniques:

1. Cinematography
2. Editing
3. Mise-en-scène
4. Sound
5. Performance

For task 1, please download Resource Material 1 and carefully study and think about the key terms. Then, using an all time favorite film of yours, select a scene that has real cinematic impact. For example, taking last year's film *Joker*, the following scene would be an excellent example:

[Joker - Tube Scene](#)

Once you have found your film and scene, use the revision mats and blank grids in Resource Material 2 to make notes on the techniques used and the meanings made. Why not try writing your notes up into a short essay. A good title for my scene would be:

How is cinematography and mise-en-scène used to convey the mental instability and violence of Joker in the tube scene?

Task 2: Film Reviews

Please collect, read, highlight and file at least two different film reviews of each set text for Year 12. If it is a historical text, you should get a review from the time and one more current one. **We will do a spot check on this at the beginning of the year.**

Where can I get good sources of secondary reading?

You won't be surprised to hear that we recommend the following newspapers for their film reviews and Arts sections: The Guardian; The Observer (Sundays); The Times and The Sunday Times; The Independent. Reading good critics will help you become familiar with the vocabulary used to discuss film. A good film magazine to start you off is *Empire*, but a much more "academic" and critical publication is *Sight and Sound*. You won't always agree with a critic but you will learn how to analyse and how to develop a critical point of view; an essential skill in Film Studies. Read the reviews of the films you go to see – do you agree?

Task 2b: Please write a Film Review for one American (to bring to Mrs Seed's first lesson) and one British (to bring to Mrs Wildman's first lesson) set text. Use film stills from google to illustrate the points you wish to make in your film review.

Task 3: Wider Viewing

Stream /buy and watch at least two from the following list of films – they are a list of successful British and American and Global films from 2017-2020 and watching them will help you understand the defining features of these film industries.

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The British Film Industry: *The Favourite*



Independent American: *Moonlight*



The American Film Industry: *A Star Is Born* / *Joker*



World Cinema: *Roma*



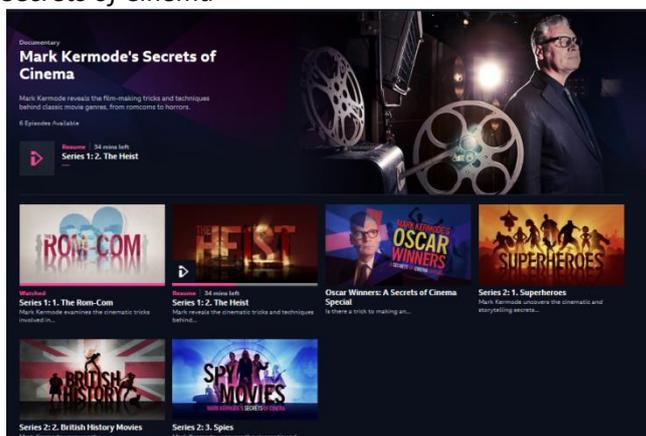
Task 3b Film Diary

To record what you have watched, **buy a nice A4 notebook and keep a log of it.** Collect cinema tickets, marketing material (posters, flyers, any material from the internet) and images and stick them into you book. Jot down a few notes on your response to the film. Don't worry about being too technical just yet, it's enough to say what you liked and why at this point. Get out of your comfort zone and ensure that this summer you watch some films that challenge, infuriate, surprise and stimulate you. Being passionate about film is the key to success on this course. **Both teachers will do spot checks on these.**

Task 4: Film Critics

Get into the habit of watching and listening to the following Film Critic programmes [they are both available on BBC iplayer]:

1. *The Film Review* with Mark Kermode airs on BBC News Channel 6.45pm on Friday nights.
2. *Front Row* airs on Radio 4 every weekday at 7.15pm.
3. *Secrets of Cinema*



Be ready to talk about what the critics are talking about in every lesson. We will ask.

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Mrs Seed and Mrs Wildman look forward to hearing and seeing how you have got on.