



Film Studies at Beths (WJEC Eduqas)

Component 1 – Varieties of film and filmmaking

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes (35%)

This component assesses knowledge and understanding of **six** feature-length films.

Section A: Hollywood 1930-1990 (comparative study)

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to two Hollywood films, one from the Classical Hollywood period (1930-1960) and the other from the New Hollywood period (1961-1990).

Casablanca and **Do the Right Thing**

Section B: American film since 2005 (two film study)

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to **two** American films, one mainstream film and one contemporary independent film.

La La Land and **Captain Fantastic**

Section C: British film since 1995 (two film study)

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to **two** British films.

Trainspotting and **This is England**

Component 2 – Global filmmaking perspectives

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes (35%)

This component assesses knowledge and understanding of **five** feature-length films.

Section A: **Global film** (two-film study)

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to **two** global films; **one** European and **one** produced outside Europe.

City of God and **Pan's Labyrinth**

Section B: **Documentary film**

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to **one** documentary film.

Amy

Section C: **Film movements – silent cinema**

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to **one** silent film or group of films.

Sunrise

Section D: **Film movements – experimental film**

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to one film option.

Pulp Fiction

Component 3: Production

Non-exam assessment (30%)

This component assesses **one** production and its evaluative analysis.

You will produce:

- **Either** a short film (**4-5 minutes**) **or** a screenplay for a short film (**1600 – 1800 words**) plus a digitally photographed storyboard of a key section from the screenplay
- An evaluative analysis (**1700 – 2000 words**)

Our Expectations:

Independence and Confidence

You have chosen Film Studies at AS level and your teachers expect to see that you are determined to produce the best work that you can. You should be developing strong independence and an ability to solve problems for yourself. You should be visiting the library, managing your time effectively and investigating ideas outside of lesson time because you *choose* to, not because you *have* to. You **MUST** be watching films outside of lessons and make an effort to broaden your cinematic tastes.

Curiosity

Be curious. Be interested. Be excited. Be inspired by each other; a curious mind is a powerful tool that will help you achieve great things. Read books, consume magazines and, more importantly, watch as many films as you can.

Presumably you chose this subject because you love films – now is your chance to explore that love! The following are **not** required texts, but they are extremely useful:

- **WJEC Eduqas Film Studies for A Level & AS Revision Guide by Jenny Stewart**
- **WJEC Eduqas Film Studies for A Level & AS by Lisa Wardle**
- **Short Films: Writing the Screenplay (Creative Essentials) by Patrick Nash**
- **The Good, the Bad and the Multiplex by Mark Kermode**

Positive Attitude

Your teachers are fantastic people. We are here to help you to achieve the best you possibly can. Come to the lesson with a positive attitude. Bring questions. Bring observations and be prepared to share your ideas with us and the lessons will be great.

Don't allow lessons to be dominated by ONE voice (whether ours or another student) make sure you are sharing your ideas and making your voice heard: we will ALL be better off for it.

Independent Study

You are expected to spend the same amount of time on Film Studies outside of lessons, as you spend in lessons. You are expected to do this independently to gain a wider/further understanding of topics we are covering

Film Studies Induction Tasks:

Get analytical

1. Watch the opening sequence to a movie (about the first five minutes). How does the director give you a sense of:

- a) The setting
- b) The genre
- c) Key characters
- d) The plot

2. Watch one or more films of your choice and make notes on one or more of the following:

- a) Use of costume and props to indicate character
- b) Use of music to heighten audience response
- c) The performance of an actor and how that adds to the audience's experience of a film
- d) The use of special effects and CGI

Get creative

3. Grab your phone, camera or filming equipment and make your own short film (about 10 minutes) or a trailer for a longer film (3-5mins).

Try to think about:

- a) Content/script - What you are trying to capture - a moment, a feeling? Or are you trying to tell a story... Will you use dialogue, how many characters, etc (you will not want many in a short film). What genre is it? Are you trying to break conventions or do something quite traditional?
- b) Sound - what music are you going to use? Do you want dialogue or a voiceover? How are you going to keep unwanted sound out? Are there any sounds you need to add artificially. How are you going to do that?
- c) Cinematography - how are you going to film it? What are the best camera angles/distances to emphasise what you are going to achieve? Again, do you want to do something traditional, or do you want to do something a little more unusual. Also, think about lighting - do you want 'natural' or artificial light? How are you going to achieve consistency?
- d) Editing - how are you going to put this all together? Have you gone for long or short edits? Are you going for a linear or non-linear narrative?

4. Write a script to a short film or a sequence of a film.

Think about:

- a) characters
- b) setting
- c) genre
- d) plot/story
- e) how you would film it - think about camera angles, music that will enrich the film/scene

5. Create a storyboard for a film trailer or sequence of a feature film you create, using either photographs, your own artwork or images from the Internet.

Think about:

- a) What the overarching plot, genre, setting, characters are for the feature film;
- b) Which elements you are focusing on for your sequence/trailer;
- c) How many 'shots' make up your sequence/trailer (this will be the number of boxes in your storyboard)
- d) For each 'box' on your storyboard, you need to show:

How the shot is framed

Any props/costume required

Any dialogue/music/voiceover in the shot

The length of the edit/any camera movement

Any special lighting for the shot

Get researching (IMDB and beyond)

6. Select a director or actor of your choice and research all you can about them.

Think about:

- a) Their background
- b) Their most famous films
- c) Common features of their films
- d) What critics have said about them
- e) Collaborations/common pairings
- f) Were/are they part of any movement/particular style?

7. Find out about the history of film:

- a) What was the first film, who made it and when?
- b) What were common features of films in each of the decades - 1920s, 1930s, 1940s, etc.
- c) What was the studio system and what happened to it?
- d) What is a star?
- e) What is an auteur?
- f) Which countries have the biggest film industries?
- g) What are the most popular film genres?
- h) What is an independent film?

8. Go left-field!

Watch a movie from a genre or era that you wouldn't usually and just enjoy! Enrich your film understanding, knowledge and appreciation.... You will eventually study a silent film and subtitled film in your second year of the course, but you will find it a little easier if you give it a go before this. You may be surprised how accessible they are as well!