

FILM STUDIES

Exam board: Eduqas

% of exam vs. coursework/practical assessment

30% coursework, 70% exam based

Length of exams

There are two written exams in the A Level, both are two and a half hours in length.

Breakdown of units

The films named here are done so for illustrative purposes only as the choice of texts may change. Areas of study across all films can be divided into three topics – 1. The key elements of film form: cinematography, mise-en-scène, editing, sound and performance. 2. Meaning and response: how film functions as both a medium of representation and as an aesthetic medium. 3. The contexts of film: social, cultural, political, historical and institutional, including production. Other topics such as spectatorship, auteur theory, critical debates and ideology are also covered.

Component 1 – Varieties of film and filmmaking. In each section two films are to be studied:

Section A: Hollywood, 1930-1990 (“Vertigo” and “Blade Runner”)

Section B: America since 2005 (“Selma” and “Beasts of the Southern Wild”)

Section C: British film since 1995 (“Fish Tank” and “This is England”)

Component 2 – Global filmmaking perspectives. Section A requires the study of two films, all other sections focus on just one text.

Section A: Global film (“Pan’s Labyrinth” and “City of God”)

Section B: Documentary film (“20,000 Days on Earth”)

Section C: Silent cinema (“Sunrise”)

Section D: Experimental film, 1960-2000 (“Vivre sa vie”)

Component 3 – Production. Coursework component.

Students can choose between a short film sequence (around 5 minutes) or a 1600-1800 word screenplay. A storyboard also needs to be produced along with an evaluative analysis essay by the student on their work.

Overlap with other subjects – Film Studies works well with other essay based subjects such as English Literature, Theatre Studies or Sociology. The creative elements in the A Level means that over the years many Art students, particularly those studying Photography, have enjoyed this subject.

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