

Film Studies



Why study Film?

A Level Film Studies offers a broad and coherent course of study which allows learners the opportunity to broaden their knowledge and understanding of film. The content will be assessed across two examination components and one production component. All learners will study 11 film texts in relation to the *core study areas* with some film topics requiring the study of additional specialist topic areas including narrative, ideology and spectatorship. In addition, for the coursework component of the programme of study, students will create a Film production, choosing to specialise in either Screenwriting or Moving Image Production synoptically drawing on the cinematic influences and insights gained from the range of the films studied throughout the course. This allows learners the freedom to express their own practical interests as potential film-makers.

The structure of the Film Studies programme allows learners to demonstrate their ability to draw together different areas of knowledge and understanding from across the three components, providing them with an informed filmmaker's perspective of film.

Aims of the course

The WJEC Eduqas specification is designed to introduce A level learners to a wide variety of films in order to broaden their knowledge and understanding of film and the range of responses films can generate. This specification therefore offers opportunities to study mainstream American films from the past and the present as well as a range of recent and contemporary British films, American independent films and global films, both non-English language and English language. The historical range of film represented in those films is extended by the study of silent film and significant film movements so that learners can gain a sense of the development of film from its early years to its still emerging digital future. Studies in documentary, experimental and short films add to the breadth of the learning experience.

Production work is a crucial part of this specification and is integral to learners' study of film. Studying a diverse range of films from several different contexts is designed to give learners the opportunity to apply their knowledge and understanding of how films are constructed to their own filmmaking and screenwriting. This is intended to enable learners to create high quality film and screenplay work as well as provide an informed filmmaker's perspective on their own study of film.

The WJEC Eduqas A level in Film Studies aims to enable learners to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- a diverse range of film, including documentary, film from the silent era, experimental film and short film
- the significance of film and film practice in national, global and historical contexts
- film and its key contexts (including social, cultural, political, historical and technological contexts)
- how films generate meanings and responses
- film as an aesthetic medium
- the different ways in which spectators respond to film.

It also aims to enable learners to:

- apply critical approaches to film and
- apply knowledge and understanding of film through either filmmaking or screenwriting.

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW:

Component 1 Varieties of film and filmmaking Exam 2 ½ hours 35 % of total

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 Blade Runner

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.

No Country For Old Men and Winter's Bone

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

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

Shaun of the Dead and Sightseers

Global Filmmaking perspectives Exam 2 ½ hours 35 % of total

This component assesses knowledge and understanding of **five** feature-length films (or their equivalent).

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.

Pans Labyrinth and City of God

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.

Four Buster Keaton Films

Section D: Film movements – Experimental film (1960-2000)

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

Pulp Fiction

Possible film choices

Casablanca and Blade Runner

No Country For Old Men and Winter's Bone

Shaun of the Dead and Sightseers

Pans Labyrinth and City of God

Amy

Four Buster Keaton Films

Pulp Fiction