FILM STUDIES (GCSE)

Examination Board **WJEC Eduqas** **C670QS**

Film is an important part of many people's lives. Those who choose to study it characteristically bring with them a huge enthusiasm and excitement for film which constantly motivates them in their studies. They experience a powerful medium which inspires a range of responses from the emotional to the reflective as they are drawn into characters, their narratives and the issues films raise. The root of that power is the immersive audio-visual experience film offers – one which can exploit striking cinematography, composition and locations as well as powerful music and sound. It is not surprising that many consider film to be the major art form of the last hundred years and that many feel it important to study a medium which has such a significant influence on the way people think and feel.

Overview of the course

Learners will develop their knowledge of US mainstream film by studying one film from the 1950s and one film from the later 70s and 80s, thus looking at two stages in Hollywood's development. In addition, they will be studying more recent films – a US independent film as well as films from the UK and one from Japan. 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.

Course content

Component 1: Key Development in US Film

This component assesses knowledge & understanding of **three** US films chosen from a range of options.

Assessment consists of **four** questions on one pair of US mainstream films & **one** US independent film:

Section A: US film comparative study

- one stepped question on the first of the chosen pair of films (produced between 1930 & 1960)
- one stepped question on the second of the chosen pair of films (produced between 1961 & 1990)

Section B: Key developments in film & film technology

- one multi-part question on developments in film & film technology

Section C: US independent film

one question on one US independent film

Component 2: Global Film: Narrative, Representation & Film Style

This component assesses knowledge & understanding of **three** global films produced outside the US, chosen from a range of options.

Assessment consists of **three** questions in three sections:

- Section A: one stepped question on one global English language film
- Section B: one stepped question on one global non-English language film
- Section C: one stepped question on one contemporary UK film.

Component 3: Production

This component assesses the ability to apply knowledge & understanding of film to a production & its accompanying analysis. Learners produce:

- one genre-based film (either from a film or from a screenplay)
- one evaluative analysis of the production, where learners analyse & evaluate their production in relation to comparable, professionally-produced films or screenplays.

The production work consists of an extract from a film between two and two and half minutes long from one of a number of genres, including crime and horror. Films to be studied include: **"Attack the Block" (2011), "Slumdog Millionaire" (2008), "Spirited Away" (2001), "Invasion of the Bodysnatchers" (1956), "E.T." (1982) and "Whiplash" (2014).** Some film choices may change from year to year.

How you will be assessed

Unit	Assessment and duration	Maximum Marks	Percentage of overall qualification
Component 1	Exam – 1 hour 30 minutes	70	35%
Component 2	Exam – 1 hour 30 minutes	70	35%
Component 3	Non-exam assessment	60	30%

Students who successfully complete this course will be awarded a GCSE grade on a nine point scale: 1 – 9, where 9 is the best grade.

This course will enable you to build the following skills and knowledge:

- practical filmmaking skills, including editing
- creativity
- literacy
- leadership
- problem solving
- presentation skills
- research skills
- social, cultural, historical, political and institutional knowledge

Post 16 courses available

Many students find that skills learnt in Film Studies cross over with many other subjects at a higher level, particularly English and Drama. Students have the opportunity to apply for the A level Film Studies course offered at the school. The British Film Institute also offers free, or highly subsidised, courses for those 16 and over in different areas of the film industry across the country. These opportunities are designed to foster talent and encourage motivated individuals who would like to work in the British film industry and are often provided at no or minimal cost. They are short courses which can run alongside Level 3 courses and can 'open doors' for students and potentially various opportunities.