

Film Studies A-level

Exam board: WJEC Eduqas

Where do I start?

You must meet the minimum entry requirements of Wootton Park VI. In addition to this you also need at least a **Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature**

Film Studies - about the subject:

Film is one of the main cultural innovations of the 20th century and a major art form of the last hundred years. Those who study it characteristically bring with them a high degree of enthusiasm and excitement for what is a powerful and culturally significant medium, inspiring a range of responses from the emotional to the reflective. Film Studies consequently makes an important contribution to the curriculum, offering the opportunity to investigate how film works both as a medium of representation and as an aesthetic medium.

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.

What type of learner chooses Film Studies?

Learners who choose Film Studies, must have a natural interest in Film as an Art form. They will treat the viewing of films as an active process whereby they are critically assessing the aesthetics of the film form and placing the text into a wider global, social, cultural and historical contexts.

Learners will need to be able to discuss and debate films and their meanings, as well as develop their interpretations by reading a range of critical academic essays. Learners will need to show an interest in the process of film production and we will be willing to think creatively when developing their original short film production and screenplay.



What aspects of the subject will I be studying?

- The key elements of film form
- Meaning and response
- The contexts of films
- Spectatorship
- Ideology
- Auteur
- Critical Debates
- Filmmakers' Theories
- Production processes

Film Genres and Movements

- Classical Hollywood (1930 – 1960)
- New Hollywood (1960 – 1990)
- Silent Cinema
- Experimental Film
- Global Cinema
- Documentary Film
- Independent Cinema
- British Film

How will I be assessed?

There are 3 assessed components, 2 of which are terminal examination. In component 1 learners will be asked questions on Hollywood Cinema (1930-1960), American Film since 2005, and British Cinema. This component is worth 35% of the A-level and consists of a 2hr 30min exam.

For component 2, learners will be asked questions on Global Cinema, Documentaries, Silent Cinema, and Experimental film. This is also a 2hr 30min exam, worth 35% of the course. The final component is worth 30% and consists of practical production and evaluation. Learners will either produce a short film, or write a screenplay.

What are the career/higher education prospects?

Over the last 50 years, Film Studies has established itself as a highly respected academic discipline with courses at Bachelor, Masters and PhD facilitated at most Russell Group Universities. However, the course would also be suitable as an entry point for other Arts, Humanities and Languages based courses. Graduates may decide to explore the Film Industry as a career, or move into other disciplines ranging from Journalism, Education to Business.

What are the extra-curricular opportunities with this subject?

Learners can attend a film club, discuss foreign films and can work on creating their own films.

Learners can also get involved in drama, script writing and marketing opportunities and develop their experience of film and cinema outside the classroom.