

Film Studies

Subject level A-level

Resource site www.wqe.ac.uk/tasteractivities

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Subject context Film Studies is designed to deepen your understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of film. You will study film as a medium, an art form and as a social and cultural institution, and there will be a deep engagement with a wide range of film experiences. The course will develop a number of key skills such as critical analysis and application of this knowledge in making films and writing screenplays.

Although there is a detailed textual approach being offered here, similar to English Literature, at the core of this course is a clear recognition of how films are made. There will be a clear focus on the aesthetic choices made by filmmakers and how this might impact on you, in the production of your own practical work.

What is Film Studies?

- This is a long established A Level.
- There have been good (A/B) results over the years.
- Many students have gone on to study Film at university.
- Several have got jobs in the industry – in production, distribution and marketing.
- There is a skills shortage in the UK so there will be opportunities arising.

You can study Film alongside any range of subjects including Media Studies.

Estimated time required to complete activity 1 - 2 hours

Submission instructions Email me at john.fitzgerald@wqe.ac.uk.

Feedback I will respond individually to feedback. All the material should be sent to me as a Word document or a PDF with your name/school.

Resources required A laptop, a good internet link, access to Word/PDF.

Assignment details

- This is a brief session and I would just like to concentrate on looking at some **short films** rather than extracts of **features**
- This provides a good way into **film debates** and in looking at how **film is put together**
- If you decide to look at Film as a **serious option for A Level** this will give you a framework **for future viewing**

How do we *analyze* film?

(a) Film form – These are the main ways we do this – Are these terms familiar to you?

Editing - how is the film cut to help meaning

Cinematography – how is shot (angles, framing, movement)

Sound – dialogue, soundtrack, music

Mise-en-scene – costume, props, setting, location,

Performance – gesture, movement, voice

(b) Narrative

How do films tell a story?

Establish character

Use time

Create cause and effect

Order of events – plot

Openings/climatic sequences/endings

Keep you interested and believing in what you are seeing

Task One *Post-It Love*

This is a short film called *Post-It Love*

Answer the following question after watching the film

- 1. How does this film work in establishing a relationship between us as spectators and the two characters?**

Include points on film form – the camera, the editing, the mise-en-scene and the use of sound (and lack of dialogue)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TsKghhQ41FM>

Task Two *The Black Hole*

Answer the following questions after watching the film

- 2. Watching this film how does it work in terms of the story (narrative) that it tells?**
- 3. How does the use of the camera and sound convince us that we are watching is believable?**
- 4. What information is given by the character's costume about his attitude to work?**

<https://www.filmsshort.com/short-film-pages/the-black-hole-olly-williams-philip-sansom.html#.WzHxGWyQyUk>

Task Three *Connect*

This is one of the official short films on the course and it is called *Connect*. Answer the following questions after watching the film.

- 5. How does the film establish the main female character through props, costume and the location?**
- 6. What do we see from her perspective which isn't realistic?**
- 7. Comment on the way that sound is used in this short film.**
- 8. To what extent does the camera and editing techniques establish the 'relationship' between her and the young man?**
- 9. What were your feelings when he left the bus?**
- 10. The ending of the film feels quite abrupt and sudden. Do you feel that this offers effective closure?**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpOSIYHxAaE>