



# Film Studies

## Key Stage 4

### Course Overview

Film Studies is designed to draw on students' enthusiasm for film and introduce them to a broad range of films from around the world as well as give them a historical perspective on film. Students will focus on mainstream Hollywood films including films produced in the 1950s and late 1970s and 80s, two distinct phases of Hollywood's development. Through comparing these films, learners will see how genres change; how the contexts in which films are produced affect films and how elements such as cinematography and editing change and develop. More recent US film will be explored through independent productions – films produced outside the mainstream, which have allowed their filmmakers to explore less conventional topics and issues – and there will also be the chance to explore film produced outside the US – in the U.K., Europe, South Africa and Australia.

We aim to develop learners' knowledge and understanding of how films are made; how films are organised into structures to tell their stories; how films can be used artistically and as a way of communicating ideas and issues, and how audiences make sense of film. Students will learn about the focus films' relevant contexts (social, cultural, historical, political and institutional); the key aspects of the history of film, and specialist writing on film. Production work is a central part of this GCSE. Students will therefore be given the opportunity to create their own screenplay, which will enable them to apply all that they have learnt about film. In addition, students will also develop a range of literacy, communication, analytical, production, IT and other transferable skills.

### Nature of assessment

Assessment is through one internally assessed production task, worth 30% of the total grade, and two terminal exams, worth 35% of the total grade each and externally marked.

- Paper 1: Key Developments in US Film (1 hour 30 minutes written exam, 70 marks). Students will study three American films: one comparative study of a set pair of mainstream genre films and one set independently produced film.
- Paper 2: Narrative, Representation and Film Style (1 hour 30 minutes written exam, 70 marks). Students will study three films from outside the US: one **set** global English language film, from a choice of three; one set global non-English language film, and one UK film, produced since 2010.
- Paper 3: Production (non-exam assessment, 60 marks). Learners will write an extract from a screenplay for a genre film (800 to 1000 words), accompanied by a shooting script and an evaluative analysis.

### Careers this can lead to

Film Studies includes a wide range of transferrable skills that would lead to careers in such areas as the film, TV and video industries; publishing industry; advertising, marketing and communications; teaching and lecturing.

#### Staff Contact:

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