

FILM STUDIES

KS4 Curriculum

What does this course involve at Key Stage 4?

GCSE Film Studies involves the study of the history of film and film technology from 1895 to the present day with special focus on Hollywood film of the 1950s and 1980s, U.S. independent film, U.K. film and global film. Students will learn about how films are constructed; genres and narrative structures; the aesthetic qualities of films; how films communicate meaning to audiences, and the relevant contexts of films (social, cultural, historical, political and institutional). Creative production is an important part of this course and is integral to the learners' study of film. Students will create their own original concept for a feature film and write the opening to a screenplay with accompanying shooting script and an evaluative analysis, learning industry screenwriting protocol.

What do you need to be successful in this course?

An interest in film is very useful indeed. A creative imagination and an interest in creative writing are also very useful.

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During this three-year GCSE course, you will study key aspects of film:

- film form, including cinematography and lighting, mise-en-scène, sound and editing
- representation in film
- aesthetics
- narrative, including the Classic Hollywood 3-Act Structure as well as narrative theorists (Todorov, Lévi-Strauss, Propp)
- global contexts to film
- film history and film technology history
- specialist film writing
- creative, technical and academic writing (planning techniques, professional screenplay formatting, storyboarding, shooting scripts, evaluation and analysis)

How will you be assessed?

There are two 90 minutes examinations worth 70% of the grade.

Coursework (screenplay, shooting script and evaluative analysis) is worth 30% of the grade.

The coursework will be completed in Years 9 and 10 and in the Autumn term of Year 11.

The examinations are assessed against two assessment criteria, distributed differently across different exam questions: A01 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of elements of film; A02 Apply knowledge and understanding of elements of film, including to analyse films.

The coursework is assessed against two assessment criteria: A03 Apply knowledge and understanding of elements of film to the production of a genre-based screenplay (20%) and A02 Apply knowledge and understanding of elements of film to analyse and evaluate own work in relation to other professionally produced work (10%).

