

FILM STUDIES film form test – part 1

List the five basic shot types:

[5 marks]

What can an **extreme long shot** also be known as?

[1 mark]

Describe one of the possible effects of using an **extreme close up**:

[1 mark]

Which of these are also the names of shot types? Tick all that apply.

- Four shot
- Dutch tilt
- First person shot
- Middle shot
- Over the shoulder shot

[1 mark]

Name the two types of camera angle (other than level), say where the camera is placed and give the potential impact of each:

[4 marks]

Define ***mise-en-scene***:

[1 mark]

Define ***aesthetic***:

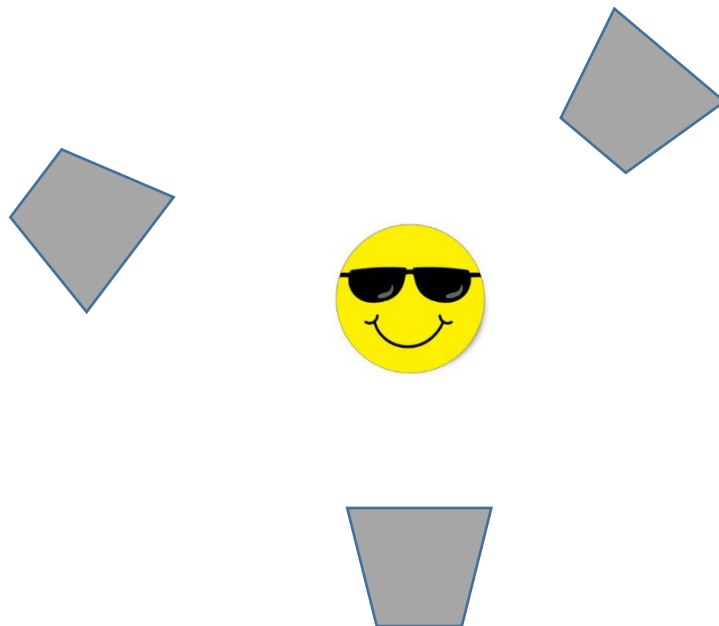
[1 mark]

Define the following types of camera movement giving as much detail about the effect as you can:

1. Pan –
2. Aerial shot –
3. Tracking shot –
4. Handheld camera -
5. Dolly shot –

[5 marks]

Label this diagram correctly:



[2 marks]

State the correct terms for dark and bright lighting and explain what effects they can have and where they might typically be used.

[2 marks]

Match the years with the events which make up the history of sound in film:

1891	The audio tube is invented by Dr de Forest
1895	<i>The Great Train Robbery</i> , the first narrative film, is released
1896	The kinetoscope is invented by Edison
1903	<i>Arrival of a train</i> is made and is the first projected moving picture to be seen on a screen
1905	The Lumiere brothers invent the cinematograph enabling groups to see moving image pictures
1906	<i>The Jazz Singer</i> is released and is the first film with synchronised sound and image
1927	The first static cinema, known as a Nickelodeon, is built

[7 marks]

Indicate which of the following statements are true and which are false. Extra marks will be awarded for correcting the false statements:

1. **Diegetic sound** comes from within the scene.
2. **Non-diegetic sounds** are also within the scene, but are the background sounds such as crowds or birds singing.
3. A **voice over** is a type of narration
4. **Contrapuntal sound** goes along with action happening in the scene
5. **Parallel sound** is where a soundtrack doesn't match with the action
6. **Dialogue** is typically spoken by one of the protagonists and is laid over the top of the images
7. **Pleonastic sounds** are enhanced sounds, such as a sword being drawn or a stab

[7 marks + 1 bonus mark for each correction]

Explain what effect silence can have in a film. Give examples to support your ideas.

[2 marks]

In the scenes we watched from *Black Swan* (Aronofsky, USA, 2010), what impact did sound have on our understanding of the character and the narrative? Give examples to support your ideas.

[4 marks]

For each film still, complete the questions in full sentences with as much detail as possible, using key terms wherever possible.

Skyfall (Mendes, UK, 2012)



What famous landmarks can you identify? What do they symbolise?

Why do you think this area of London was selected for this shot?

Why so many flags?

Do you think the sun is coming up or going down? Why would that be meaningful?

Why do you think Bond is positioned facing away from the audience?

[10 marks]

Attack the Block (Cornish, UK, 2011)



What colour filter do you think has been used? Why?

What is symbolic about the elevator?

Why has a low angle been used?

[6 marks]

Brooklyn (Crowley, UK, 2015)



How has cinematography been used to position the audience?

How has the costume design been used to suggest character?

Why do you think the director has used a sepia tone?

[6 marks]

Film form test – part 2

You will watch the opening of *Children of Men* (Cuaron, USA, 2006) three times. On the first viewing, just watch. You will then have 3 minutes to make notes. On the second and third viewings (and between these) make notes in response to the questions.

You must use key words learnt so far in your answers and give as much detail as possible.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCTgUq6hzUk>



How is sound used from the very beginning to make the audience feel uneasy?

How is cinematography used to position Theo (Clive Owen) as the protagonist?

What is the genre of the film? How does the cinematography indicate this?

How is London represented? What is the audience encouraged to feel about it through the mise-en-scene?

How is camera movement used to reflect the uneasiness of the scene?

[25 marks]

A LEVEL FILM STUDIES film form test – part 1 ANSWERS

List the five basic shot types:

Extreme close up

Close up

Medium shot

Long shot

Extreme long shot

[5 marks]

What can an **extreme long shot** also be known as?

Establishing shot

[1 mark]

Describe one of the possible effects of using an **extreme close up**:

Show emotion, characters reactions, builds bonds with the audience

[1 mark]

Which of these are also the names of shot types? Tick all that apply.

- Four shot
- Dutch tilt
- First person shot
- Middle shot
- Over the shoulder shot

[1 mark]

Name the two types of camera angle (other than level), say where the camera is placed and give the potential impact of each:

Low angle shot – camera placed low, puts subject in a position of power and audience in a position of weakness

High angle shot – camera up high, puts subject in a position of weakness and audience in a position of power

[4 marks]

Define ***mise-en-scene***:

Everything in the frame

[1 mark]

Define ***aesthetic***:

The look of a film/shot (an auteur can have a particular aesthetic)

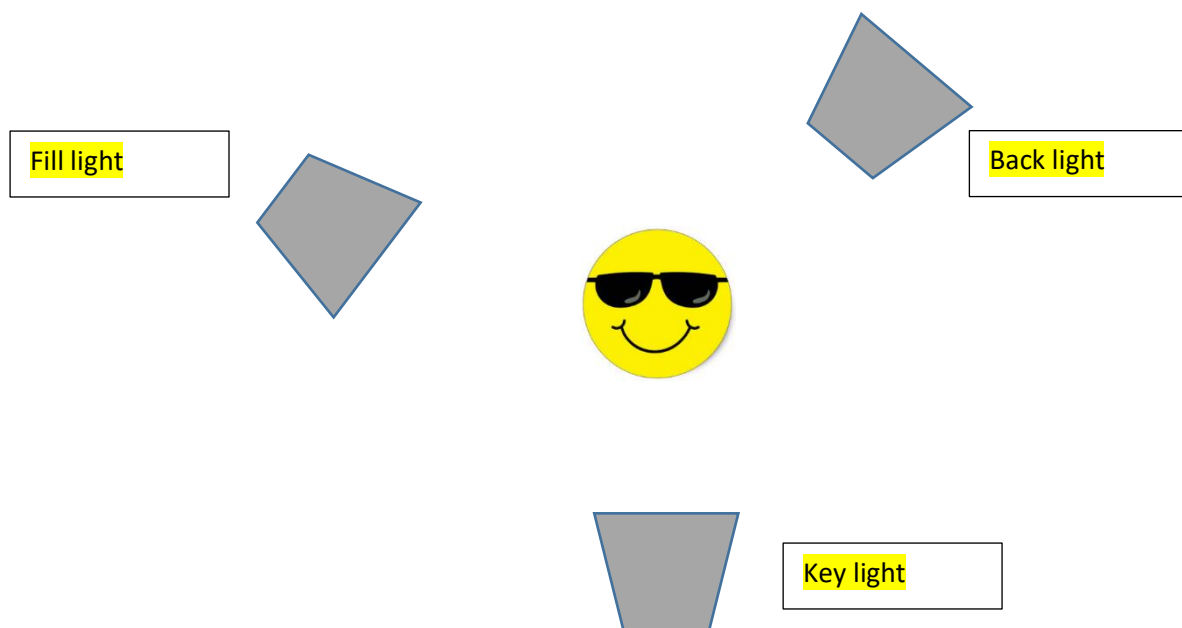
[1 mark]

Define the following types of camera movement giving as much detail about the effect as you can:

1. Pan – The camera is in a fixed position and moved horizontally.
1. Aerial shot – usually taken from a helicopter/drone and allow the audience to enjoy the spectacle of the landscape.
2. Tracking shot – follow the subject moving with them
3. Handheld camera - ‘wobbly’ and unstable, creating a more realistic and immersive effect.
4. Dolly shot – the camera is placed on a track in a ‘dolly’ (like a train track and a car), and the dolly is then pushed alongside the action. This is quite a fluid movement.

[5 marks]

Label this diagram correctly:



[2 marks]

State the correct terms for dark and bright lighting and explain what effects they can have and where they might typically be used.

Low key lighting – dark lighting effects used to create shadows and tension. Can connote mystery, fear and/or drama. Often used in horror, action and sci-fi films

High key lighting – bright, ambient lighting often used to create happy or calm moods. Often used in comedies, musicals, romantic films etc

[2 marks]

Match the years with the events which make up the history of sound in film:

1891	The audio tube is invented by Dr de Forest
1895	<i>The Great Train Robbery</i> , the first narrative film, is released
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[7 marks]

Indicate which of the following statements are true and which are false. Extra marks will be awarded for correcting the false statements:

1. **Diegetic sound** comes from within the scene. - T
2. **Non-diegetic sounds** are also within the scene, but are the background sounds such as crowds or birds singing. – F – non-diegetic sounds are placed over the shot, such as soundtracks/voice overs
3. A **voice over** is a type of narration - T
4. **Contrapuntal sound** goes along with action happening in the scene – F – oppositional to the scene
5. **Parallel sound** is where a soundtrack doesn't match with the action – F – matches the scene
6. **Dialogue** is typically spoken by one of the protagonists and is laid over the top of the images – F - dialogue can happen between any characters and is part of the diegetic sound
7. **Pleonastic sounds** are enhanced sounds, such as a sword being drawn or a stab - T

[7 marks + 1 bonus mark for each correction]

Explain what effect silence can have in a film. Give examples to support your ideas.

Can create tension and build anticipation, e.g. in *Psycho* (shower scene) silence indicates something bad is going to happen and is punctured by loud, sharp non-diegetic music (sound motif for Bates)

[2 marks]

In the scenes we watched from *Black Swan* (Aronofsky, USA, 2010), what impact did sound have on our understanding of the character and the narrative? Give examples to support your ideas.

The moments of non-diegetic enhanced sound reveal that the character has psychosis. The non-diegetic sound illustrates the voices in her head which makes her appear unstable. They also link to the narrative of 'The Double', her other personality which encourages her to do out of character things. We hear this double

through the voice over where strange, uncomfortable sounds are shown to be clouding the protagonist's brain.

[4 marks]

For each film still, complete the questions in full sentences with as much detail as possible, using key terms wherever possible.

Skyfall (Mendes, UK, 2012)



What famous landmarks can you identify? What do they symbolise?

The Palace of Westminster, Big Ben and the Ministry of Defence. All symbols of strength, authority and Britishness, similar to the role of Bond and MI5.

Why do you think this area of London was selected for this shot?

Recognisable to international audiences as being a British location – all also representative of power (and money) linking to Bond as an institution

Why so many flags?

The flags and landmarks are patriotic and the high key light is hopeful, indicating the future is positive.

Do you think the sun is coming up or going down? Why would that be meaningful?

Preferred reading is that the sun is going down. It could symbolise closure – the hero has completed his mission and acted as protector and is subsequently enjoying his victory. The flags are also at full mast, suggesting success. The sun itself brings a more positive outlook and suggests looking forward.

Why do you think Bond is positioned facing away from the audience?

The cold stone of the buildings echo the stoic and unbreakable man in the foreground, he stands in a 'hero' pose with his back to us, protecting us and the city from future threats. He is dressed all in black, as if he has been to a funeral or like the 'angel of death', there is an element of sadness and loss to the character at this point.

[10 marks]

Attack the Block (Cornish, UK, 2011)



What colour filter do you think has been used? Why?

The green filter has been used to connote death and decay, the high key lighting is harsh and unnatural within the lift, and low key low contrast outside of it, suggesting that there is safety inside the lift –which can transport them upwards to the heavenly light.

What is symbolic about the elevator?

The location is highly claustrophobic, the lift could be a metaphor for the block and its inhabitants, all from different backgrounds, working together.

Why has a low angle been used?

The low angle could connote that they are more powerful as a collective group and that they have a chance of success against what they are battling.

[6 marks]

Brooklyn (Crowley, UK, 2015)



How has cinematography been used to position the audience?

The positioning of characters around the table and the low angle, seat the audience at the table, in the empty space presented, we are one of them.

How has the costume design been used to suggest character?

There is a suggestion of a class divide at the table, on the left, the women wear pearls and more fashionable clothes in more expensive fabrics, to the right Eilis is dressed in a more feminine, home-made, prim design

Why do you think the director has used a sepia tone?

A warm sepia tone and low key lighting have been employed to create a rich colour palate, it is warm, inviting and nostalgic, but also claustrophobic, the mise en scene is cluttered, our protagonist Eilis is flanked by others in the frame with little space for movement.

[6 marks]

Film form test – part 2

You will watch the opening of *Children of Men* (Cuaron, USA, 2006) three times. On the first viewing, just watch. You will then have 3 minutes to make notes. On the second and third viewings (and between these) make notes in response to the questions.

You must use key words learnt so far in your answers and give as much detail as possible.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCTgUq6hzUk>



How is sound used from the very beginning to make the audience feel uneasy?

The voice over presents the audience with a world filled with problems. The news reports are spoken over a black screen and therefore create an enigma. The audience don't know where they are or what is happening but it is something to fear. When the voice over becomes a diegetic news report in the café, the report is of the death of the world's youngest person, who the audience learn was 18. This creates yet another enigma of why there are no younger children being born and tells the audience that there is a problem in society.

How is cinematography used to position Theo (Clive Owen) as the protagonist?

The other characters in the scene are completely still as Theo walks through them, which immediately places him as more important. He moves into the middle of the mise-en-scene and as such the camera places him centrally within the frame and confirms his importance. As he leaves the restaurant, the camera tracks him and the audience know that they are then following the protagonist.

What is the genre of the film? How does the cinematography indicate this?

The cinematography and mise-en-scene suggest that the film has elements of science fiction and action. The blast at the end of the scene is iconographic of the action genre, but the intertitle indicates the year is 2027, and a convention of science fiction films is that they can be set in the future. As the camera tracks Theo, it also pans to see the street and this reveals that technology is advanced (we see moving adverts on buses) which also connotes the genre.

How is London represented? What is the audience encouraged to feel about it through the mise-en-scene?

London is represented as dirty, dark and possibly lawless, The low key lighting makes London feel uninviting and the rubbish shown in the mise-en-scene makes it look uncared for. The Police Officers shown in the frame suggest that London is in a time of threat or turmoil. As such, London is shown to be somewhat dystopian, another convention of the science fiction genre.

How is camera movement used to reflect the uneasiness of the scene?

The main camera movement used is handheld and the unsteadiness of this seems to reflect how unsteady London is too. Initially, as it tracks Theo, we see him putting alcohol into his coffee and as we are led to believe it is morning, this suggests he has problems and/or is unhappy with his life. When the blast occurs, the handheld camera represents the chaos of that moment, almost running towards the blast to reveal survivors.

[25 marks]