A Level Film Studies – A Level Preparation Tasks

Congratulations in being part of our A Level in Film Studies! We look forward to seeing you in September and know you are going to enjoy exploring, studying and making films. Films do a number of magical things. They tell stories, create characters, allow us to experience another time and place. They can make us laugh, cry and empathise. They can disgust and delight.

But how they do it, their impact and who and what they represent are what we will explore in greater depth on this course.

On this course, you will study classic films; films made by famous and distinctive (auteur) directors; films that represent different cultures and countries – big studio blockbusters and innovative independents. You will also learn the film-making craft yourself from day one by planning, shooting and editing your own 4-5 minute masterpiece or screenplay.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Main course details: A Level Film Studies
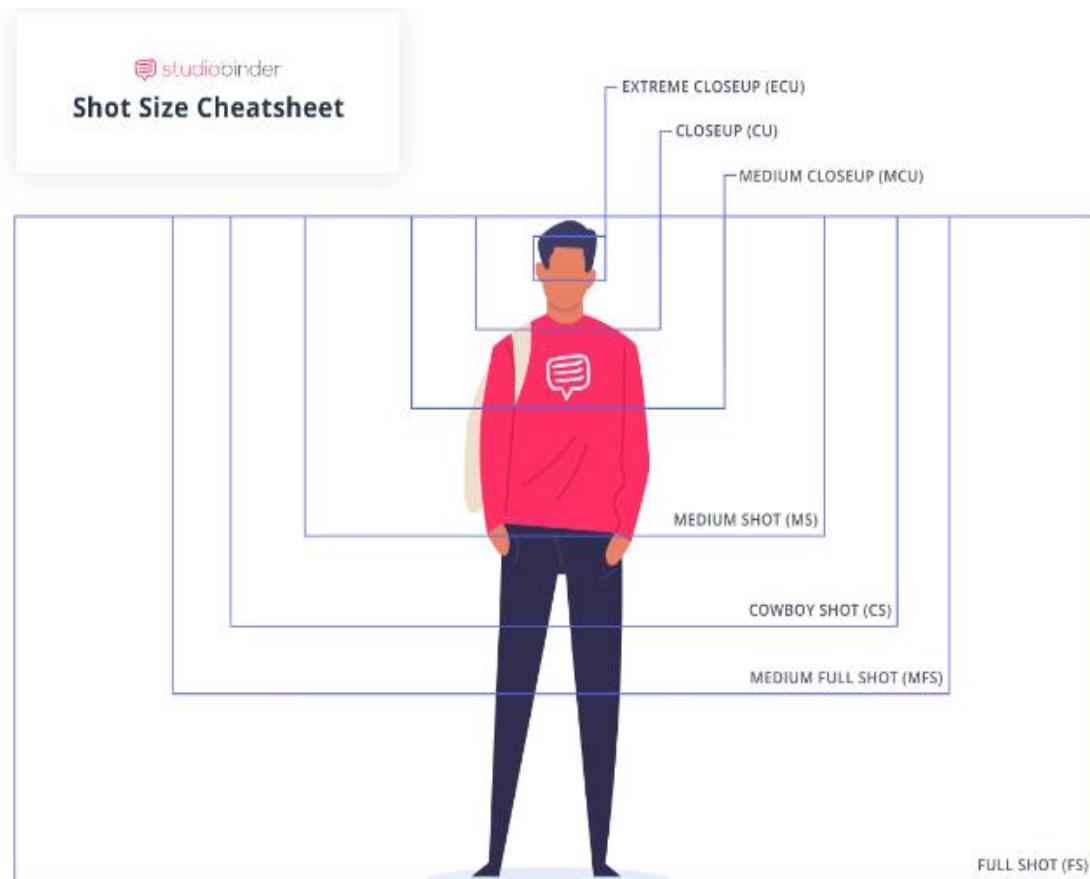
Exam Board: WJEC/EDUQAS

Method of assessment: 2 x exams (70% of A-Level) ;   1 x Film production task (30% of A-Level)

There are 3 tasks to complete in preparation for September

1. **Learn about cinematography**
   If you are accessing this on a PDF then clicking on the link should take you to the site. If not, search for '50 types of camera shots' and Studiobinder and watch the video.

Cinematography Techniques Guide: 50 Types of Camera Shots and Angles in Film (studiobinder.com)

Types of camera shots by size

Shot 1
Shot Type:
LA

Shot 2
Shot Type:
HA

Shot 3
Shot Type:
Dutch (right)

Shot 4
Shot Type:
Overhead

Shot 5
Shot Type:
Eye Level

Shot 6
Shot Type:
Shoulder Level

Camera Shots | Framing   6 Shots

Shot 1
Shot Type:
Single

Shot 2
Shot Type:
2-Shot

Shot 3
Shot Type:
3-Shot

Shot 4
Shot Type:
OTS

Shot 5
Shot Type:
Over-The-Hip

Shot 6
Shot Type:
POV

Fill in the table below

Shot type, angle and movement	What it is used for	Example from a film I have watched
Cowboy Shot		
Medium Close Up		
High Angle Shot		

Full Shot		
Point of view (POV)		
Over the Shoulder (OTS)		
High Angle		
Dutch Angle		

Then find out what is meant by these terms….

Key term	Definition	Example
Auteur		
Anti-hero		
Archetype		
Exposition		
Digital distribution		
Eyeline Match		
Expressionism		

Film Studies Scene Analysis Task

The first few weeks of the Film Studies course will be devoted to learning how to analyse a film at a basic level, analysing film form and film language. We will focus on key elements of film (cinematography, mise-en-scene, sound, editing, lighting, performance) and the ways that films are structured **(narrative).**

We will also consider how spectators respond to film and create meaning through their interaction with the film text.

Your task

Select a film that you find interesting. Watch your chosen scene (3-5 minutes – opening scenes are usually good as they introduce characters, the world of the film and key themes).

Make notes about the following elements of film form:

• The use of sound
• The use of music
• The use of colour
• Camera angles, framing and movement
• Pace and style of editing
• The use of mise-en-scene – costume, props, setting, gestures and positioning

Consider how each of these conveys information or meaning. For example, what do we learn about the character or their world? What themes are introduced? Do the elements signify a particular film genre? How is the audience affected by the elements? Use the Film analysis questions provided to help you in your analysis.
A glossary of key terms that should be used in your analysis (where appropriate) can be found using the following link: https://filmglossary.ccnmtl.columbia.edu/term/.

Once you have analysed the film, prepare a short written analysis of the sequence, focusing the interesting use of film elements in your chosen scene. Include screen shots of relevant images if you are able to.

TASK 3

Creative Production Task

<u>Either</u>

    (a) A sequence set to music that uses a range of camera shots to quickly introduce a character. **(Minimum 10 seconds)**

    (b) The first page of a screenplay that introduces a character into a tense situation

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For the screenplay task, try and follow the rules below. You can find screenplay templates online. For more information on what a screenplay is for, <u>watch this</u>.

The **standard screenplay format** is a set of rules that professional screenwriters follow when writing movie scripts. Here are the key elements:

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1. **Font**: Use a **12-point Courier** or **Courier New** font.
2. **Margins**: Maintain a **1.5-inch left margin** and a **1-inch right margin** (between 0.5 and 1.25 inches).
3. **Character & Dialogue Margins**:
o Character names should be in **uppercase letters** and positioned **3.7 inches from the left** side of the page.
o Dialogue blocks start **2.5 inches from the left** side of the page.
4. **Page Length**: Each page should have approximately **55 lines**.
5. **Pagination**: Place page numbers in the **upper right corner** with a **0.5-inch margin** from the top of the page. The first page remains unnumbered, and subsequent numbers end with a period.
6. **Scene Headings**: Use all caps for scene headings (e.g., INT. or EXT.) to indicate interior or exterior locations, followed by a description of the setting and the time of day.
7. **Action Lines**: Describe actions and events in present tense

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For the film making task, you could use an app such as CapCut or Adobe Premiere Rush or any other of your choice.

A sequence set to music that uses a range of camera shots to quickly introduce a character. **(Minimum 10 seconds)**

Export it when complete and send to me.