

media studies

A Level Preparation Pack



STEP UP TO
SIXTH FORM

Overview

The Media Studies department are looking forward to welcoming you very soon. We have a very experienced team of teachers who are dedicated to supporting you in your journey into a new college and new subjects. We are sure that you will be as passionate about the media as we are and we look forward to getting to know all about what you enjoy as a consumer and a fan. To help you prepare for sixth form study, we

have collated a list of informative and interesting resources as a starting point. We hope you enjoy finding out more about Media Studies.



Julie Edwards
Head of Media Studies

Podcasts

Grounded with Louis Theroux – <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p089sfrz/episodes/downloads> Television writer and presenter Louis Theroux interviews documentary maker Jon Ronson, plus other famous media names about their fascinating work and life stories.

The Media Show - How to Save Regional Newspapers – <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b099v2zt> This is a few years old but it's still really interesting to hear about the conflict between ASA and Snapchat and the effect of Facebook's algorithms on news and democracy. The other episodes are fascinating too.

The Film Programme Raging Bull– <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000hpdj> Studying the set films is part of the course but learning about other classic movies is a great part of extra curricular learning. Why not begin with one of our favourite directors, Martin Scorsese on how he made this classic.

Desert Island Discs -Stephen Graham <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000bdlj> This is useful as it will help your understanding of speech radio, which is part of the course, but also a fascination tale of local actor, Graham's work - from theatre in Liverpool to the best of British and Hollywood cinema.

Activities

NEWS TASK : https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/blogs/the_papers

The BBC publishes the main newspapers front pages every day.

1. Select two front pages.
2. Visit the homepage of the two newspapers and find out if they are a tabloid or a broadsheet.
3. Find out who owns the newspapers and what their political stances are.
4. What is the profile of the target audience (research their socio economic group etc)?
5. Write a 200 word summary of two front page articles, include the opinions which are presented and consider if there is any bias shown (and how).

Films



Watch any of these films and think about what they reveal about the impact of social and political context on the media.

- The Truman Show (1998)
- Good Night and Good Luck (2005)
- The Ides of March (2011)
- Frost/Nixon (2008)
- Just Mercy (Warner Brothers, 2020)

Websites



- All of these TV shows offer lots of thought provoking information on relevant topics.
- The Brain: A Secret History - Emotions; Bandura Bobo Doll Experiment (BBC2, Michael Mosley)
- Miss Representation (Netflix, 2011)
- Jesy Nelson: 'Odd One Out' (BBC 3, 2019)

Suggested Reading & Podcasts



Books

Dixon, M (2018) Media Theory for A Level: An Essential Guide. London, Routledge

British Press- follow them on social media

- The Times (you need to subscribe to this but just keeping up to date with headlines will help)
- The Independent (free online)
- Daily Mirror (free online)
- The Guardian (free online)

Course Specifications



[A Level - Download Eduqas Media Studies Specification](#)