

A Level Film Studies

Preparatory Work

We're excited to welcome you onto this new course! A Level Film Studies is designed to be exciting and challenging. You may find yourself reconsidering your ideas on what makes a good film, your ideas on ... and your ideas about the world.

As with any A Level course, the more you put in, the more you'll get out. These tasks are designed to help you hit the ground running in September – try to complete as many as you can!

1. Watch films

It sounds obvious – but it's more about what you watch. Try to watch films from a broad range of time periods, including genres that you know you won't necessarily like. Completing the bingo card below will give you exposure to a wide range of texts (and give you an advantage when we come to study some of the texts on the course).

A film in a foreign language	A British film	A silent film
An American film made between 1930-1960	FREE PASS Any film you want!	An American film made between 1960-1990
An experimental film	An American film made since 2012	A documentary film

2. Get creative

30% of your A Level will be made up of a coursework project where you need to create your own idea for a film, so it's important that you start to think creatively. How you do this is entirely up to you, but you could consider...

- Writing short stories
- Writing scripts (for film, TV or theatre)
- Develop skills in painting/sketching
- Take photographs, thinking about perspective, angle, lighting and perspective
- Create music

3. Read about film

A big part of thinking critically about film is to expose yourself to others' opinions. It's only by learning what others have to say that you can cultivate a sense of what you truly believe.

For opinions on the current state of the film industry, publications like *Variety* and *Deadline* are useful.

The British Film Institute's *Sight and Sound* journal is a good starting point on the history of film.

4. Read more generally

Literature is one of the biggest inspirations for filmmakers and in the current context of the industry, literature is often the starting point for films.

Pay particular attention to novels and plays, though non-fiction books can also provide a starting point for documentaries. There are no rules on what should be read – even the trashiest of books has made its way into the cinemas!

You could also expand this beyond books to think about music, which can be a huge inspiration for filmmakers, and artworks.

5. Get familiar with the specification

At the end of the day, the specification is our bible for this course and includes vital information on expectations that are placed on you. We follow the Eduqas A Level course, and all students will be expected to complete the full A Level.

Bonus research Task: Alfred Hitchcock

Hitchcock is a really important filmmaker in cinema and in particular on this course. We imagine him as the Shakespeare of cinema – a filmmaker who was so heavily inspired by people who came before him, and a filmmaker who has so heavily inspired by the people who came after him.

It would give you a real advantage if you were familiar with his life, watched one or two of his films, and researched the filmmakers who consider themselves to be influenced by him.