



Film Studies

A Level

Film Studies

F631 Section B:

The impact of World War II
on British cinema Study

August 2014

F631 SECTION B: GUIDE THE IMPACT OF WORLD WAR II ON BRITISH CINEMA STUDY

The aim of this study guide is to give you a range of activities and materials to work through in order to ensure that you cover all areas of the entire topic

The World War II period as defined in OCR's Film Studies specification ranges from 1939 - 1945 - which corresponds with the beginning and end of the conflict. The topic contains three areas:

- The foundation of the Ministry of Information and its role in cinema
- Film as an ideological tool to support the war effort
- Patterns in UK cinema attendances in and around the period

For each of these areas, it is vital that you develop a thorough knowledge and understanding of the factors impacting upon production, distribution and exhibition of films in Britain during the period. That way you will ensure that you develop an holistic understanding of the period and cover the required breadth of study for this unit. In addition to this, it's also very important to be able to filter your notes by being able to identify sociological events, economic events and technological events. For a fuller description of what this means and might look like, see p.10 of the OCR Film Studies specification.

GETTING STARTED

There is a vast array of documentaries about all sorts of aspects of World War II – students are very welcome to explore as much of this material as personal interest might dictate. In order to

access this topic, an excellent starting point would be to watch some of the short films across the 'Home Front Britain' series which is available to purchase on DVD. Watching some of these short films will start to give students a feel for the era and the prevailing social conditions. In addition to watching such short films, it is recommended that students watch extracts from the films detailed in the relevant part of the specification, plus any others which students or teachers consider useful and for which time allows.

Another documentary that you might be able to access is episode 4 of 'The Story of Film'. This documentary series was originally broadcast on Channel 4 and is currently available to buy on DVD. Details of the series can be found here:

<http://www.channel4.com/programmes/the-story-of-film-an-odyssey>

Before viewing any of the documentaries, get ready to make notes by constructing something like the table below.

In working out what to make notes on, keep the following questions in mind.

Who? What? Why? When? How? - this should enable you to making a lot of well organised notes to enable you to rapidly get to grips with the topic.

Programme name and episode			
	Ministry of Information	Film as ideological tool	UK cinema attendances
Sociological context			
Economic context			
Technological context			

This approach to making notes, or something similar which works best for you, should enable you to make detailed notes across all of the important areas of the topic and provide you with an at-a-glance revision guide later on. Also, making notes in this way will get you to be actively thinking about whether an event is a sociological or economic one - or *a mixture of both*, helping you to develop the understanding and skills needed for this unit.

Watching one or more of these documentaries will give you good platform to work from for the next stage of work to further develop the precision of your knowledge and understanding of the topic.

FURTHER INVESTIGATION

As with the previous work in the documentaries, you need a rigorous system for capturing information.

In reading through the web links and / or book articles detailed below, take the same approach to note-taking:

Who? What? Why? When? How? - this should enable you to making a lot of well organised notes to enable you to rapidly get to grips with the topic.

Resource details			
	Production	Distribution	Exhibition
Sociological context			
Economic context			
Technological context			

1. THE FOUNDATION OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND IT'S ROLE IN CINEMA

Read through the following and make notes:

(This activity could be an individual one, a pair or small group activity where students share notes and make presentation to teach other)

Web resources

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/theartofwar/inf3.htm>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/archive/hawhaw/8928.shtml>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/films/features/britains-world-war-ii-films-were-more-than-just-propaganda-1780730.html>

Book resources

Cinema: The Whole Story Philip Kemp (editor, 2011) pp162-167

The British At War James Chapman (1998) Part I

2. FILM AS IDEOLOGICAL TOOL

Read through the following and make notes:

(This activity could be an individual one, a pair or small group activity where students share notes and make presentation to teach other)

Web resources

<http://www.britishpathe.com/workspaces/cstevens1987/wwii-public-information-films>

<http://www.screenonline.org.uk/tours/womenwar/tour3.html>

<http://www.screenonline.org.uk/tours/womenwar/tour4.html>

<http://www.screenonline.org.uk/tours/womenwar/tour6.html>

<http://www.screenonline.org.uk/tours/womenwar/tour7.html>

<http://www.screenonline.org.uk/tours/womenwar/tour8.html>

Book resources

Cinema: The Whole Story Philip Kemp (editor, 2011) pp162-167

The British At War James Chapman (1998) Part II

Britain Can Take It (new edition) Anthony Aldgate and Jeffrey Richards (2007) – Chapters 1, 6 and 9

An introduction to Film Studies Jill Nelmes (2007) pp44-45

3. UK CINEMA ATTENDANCES

Read through the following and make notes:

(This activity could be an individual one, a pair or small group activity where students share notes and make presentation to teach other)

Web resources

<http://www.screenonline.org.uk/film/cinemas/sect4.html>

http://sas-space.sas.ac.uk/2810/1/Glancy_Going_to_the_pictures.pdf

<http://www.significancemagazine.org/details/webexclusive/2101387/Video-killed-the-cinemas-star-Cinema-attendance.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/history/world-war-two/6169176/World-War-2-Public-welcome-cinema-opening.html>

<http://www.economicshelp.org/blog/6693/business/cinema-attendance-in-uk/>

Book resources

Britain Can Take It (new edition) Anthony Aldgate and Jeffrey Richards (2007) – Chapter 1

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