



Why choose AS Level Film Studies?

Develop core academic skills valued by HE

This OCR specification has been designed to allow learners:

- to develop analytical, discursive writing skills and become confident readers of film in terms of key concepts such as narrative, genre, aesthetics, spectatorship and representation
- to investigate and explore critical debates surrounding film poetics and film narrative
- to develop research, investigative and production skills and to work both independently and collaboratively with others
- to develop evaluative skills that allow them to evaluate their own productions in relation to professionally produced films.

Expand your curriculum with an enriching and academic subject area!

This OCR specification has been designed to give learners the following opportunities:

- to embrace film as both an art form and a medium of communication and to study and enjoy a diverse range of films set by OCR
- to study at least six critically acclaimed, culturally and historically diverse set films across a one year course
- to develop a knowledge and understanding of the language and syntax of film and how filmmakers use this to create meaning
- to develop an understanding of the key contexts surrounding filmmaking (social, cultural, historical, political and institutional, including technological contexts)
- to engage with film's broad, cultural and historical heritage and gain an understanding of how meaning has been created through film from the 1930s to the present day
- to explore how film represents different cultures and societies, including through contemporary European non-English language films
- to apply academic and theoretical knowledge into their own production of a key sequence from a new British film or screenplay equivalent and produce an evaluation of their production.



Why choose OCR?

- OCR offers a diverse range of set films that were picked with input from both HE and teachers, with over 30 set films to choose from allowing teachers to tailor the course to the specific needs of their own learners
- OCR's has structured this one year course in a way that reduces the burden of assessment for centres and minimises demands on centre resources through one examined component assessed through a single two hour examination worth 70% of the course and an NEA (coursework) component worth 30% of a learner's final mark
- OCR's course is logically delineated into three examined areas of study; firstly an area on historic US film (from the 1930 to 1990) – which shares set films with the equivalent section of the A Level; a comparative contextual study of culturally diverse films which shares set films with the ideology section of the A Level and a close study of a contemporary European film; the NEA component also shares two contemporary British set films with the A Level specification
- OCR's proposed NEA briefs and exam topics are set for the life of the specification, putting less strain on teachers finding new resources
- OCR is reducing the burden of assessment for centres by only requiring research and planning for productions to be submitted as authentication evidence for moderation with no additional requirements on centres on marking this work
- OCR's AS Level has been designed to allow co-teachability with OCR's A Level in Film Studies and features a large number of shared set films (see draft curriculum planners for guidance)
- Access to subject specialists and free resources to support you through the transition to new specifications and throughout their life in the classroom.



Summary of what's in the new specification

OCR's AS Level in Film Studies consists of one component that is externally assessed and one non-examined component that is assessed by the centre and externally moderated by OCR.

Elements of Film (01)

This component is worth 105 marks and represents 70% of the marks for the AS Level.

This component is assessed via an examination paper lasting two hours. The examination paper will consist of three equally weighted sections.

- Section A: Film Form in US Cinema from 1930 to 1990 (35 marks)
- Section B: Comparative Contextual Study (35 marks)
- Section C: Close study: European film (35 marks)

Learners **must** answer one question from each section.

Section A: Film Form in US Cinema from 1930 to 1990	Section B: Comparative Contextual Study	Section C: Close Study: European film
Learners are required to study two US set films, one from each of the following time periods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1930–1960 • 1961–1990 	Learners are required to study and compare two set films, one from each of the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Independent • English language (Non-US) A choice of three themes is available to learners.	Learners are required to study one set film from the following category: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European non-English language
Total: 35 marks	Total: 35 marks	Total: 35 marks
Learners must answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two 5 mark questions • one from a choice two 25 mark essay questions 	Learners must answer one from a choice of two questions.	Learners must answer one from a choice of two questions.
Question type: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium answer (two 5 mark questions) • Extended response (25 mark essays) 	Question type: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended response (35 mark essay) 	Question type: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended response (35 mark essay)
Questions will focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The micro-elements of film form • Aesthetics • Spectatorship Critical debates on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Film poetics 	Questions will focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contexts • how meaning and response is created through the use of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - micro-elements of film form - genre - narrative construction - and the ways in which the above contribute to representations in film. 	This section is synoptic. Questions will focus on learning from the whole course and in addition critical debates on narrative.

Understanding British Film (02/03)

This non-examined assessment is worth 45 marks and represents 30% of the marks for the AS Level.

This component is internally assessed by teachers and externally moderated by OCR assessors.

Learners will be required to produce an individual key sequence from a new British film or a screenplay for a key sequence from a new British film (**30 marks**) and to carry out an evaluation of their production in relation to set film(s) studied in preparation for their production (**15 marks**).

Appendix 1: Set Films

Elements of Film (01): Section A Film Form in US Cinema from 1930 to 1990

Learners will be required to study two set films from US cinema in this section. Learners must study one of the listed set films from each of the following time periods:



1930–1960:

1 *Citizen Kane* (1941). Directed by Orson Welles. USA, U

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyv19bg0scg>

2 *Singin' in the Rain* (1952). Directed by Gene Kelly/Stanley Donen. USA, U

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36QiuRc_3l8

3 *Stagecoach* (1939). Directed by John Ford. USA, U

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llv0Tgwhy_c

4 *Vertigo* (1958). Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. USA, PG

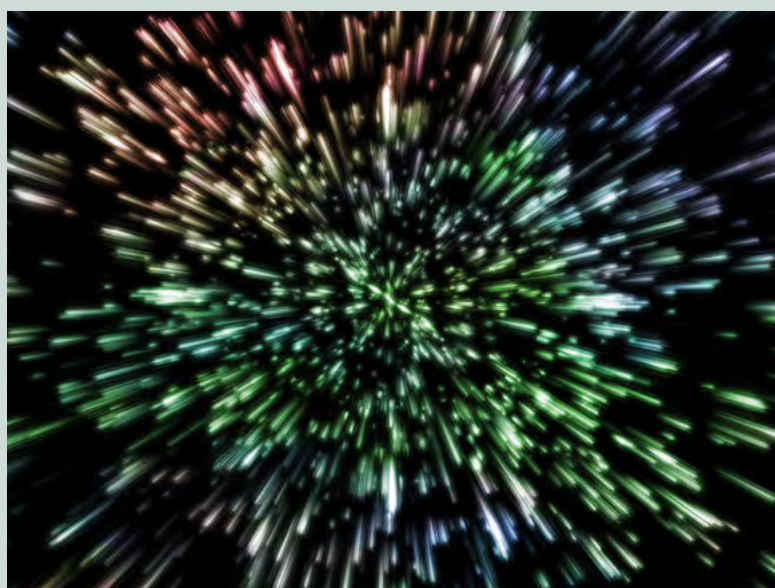
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5jvQwwHQNY>

5 *Double Indemnity* (1944). Directed by Billy Wilder. USA, PG

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKrrAa2o9Eg>

6 *All that Heaven Allows* (1955). Directed by Douglas Sirk. USA, U

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqJkCHMWw40>



1961–1990:

1 *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968). Directed by Stanley Kubrick. USA, U

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

2 *Raging Bull* (1980). Directed by Martin Scorsese. USA, 18

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YiVOwxs44OM>

3 *E.T.* (1982). Directed by Steven Spielberg. USA, PG

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=taMnCjzKgd8>

4 *Do the Right Thing!* (1989). Directed by Spike Lee. USA, 15

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=muc7xqdHudI>

5 *The Conversation* (1974). Directed by Frances Ford Coppola. USA, 12

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vrhRsZ56b4g>

6 *West Side Story* (1961). Directed by Jerome Robbins–Robert Wise. USA, PG

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yA_aFprGzyc

Elements of Film (01): Section B: Comparative contextual study

Learners must select one thematic category, e.g. Outsiders, and study two set films within that category. Within a chosen theme a set film must be studied from each of the following categories:

- US Independent
- English Language (Non-US)

Comparative contextual study set film list

	Learners must select one of the three thematic categories below		
	Family and Home	Outsiders	Conflict
US Independent	<p>Learners must study one from a choice of two set films</p> <p>1. <i>Moonrise Kingdom</i> (2012). Directed by Wes Anderson. USA, 12 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eO13AamSm8</p> <p>2. <i>The Tree of Life</i> (2011). Directed by Terrence Malick. USA, 12 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXYA1dxP_0</p>	<p>Learners must study one from a choice of two set films</p> <p>1. <i>A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night</i> (2014). Directed by Ana Lily Amirpour. USA, 15 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_YGmTdo3vuY</p> <p>2. <i>Elephant</i> (2003). Directed by Gus Van Sant. USA, 15 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htIsOf3PnGY</p>	<p>Learners must study one from a choice of two set films</p> <p>1. <i>The Hurt Locker</i> (2008). Directed by Kathryn Bigelow. USA, 15 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2GxSDZc8etg</p> <p>2. <i>Whiplash</i> (2015). Directed by Damien Chazelle. USA, 15 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7d_jQycdQGO</p>
English Language (Non-US)	<p>Learners must study one from a choice of two set films</p> <p>1. <i>Room</i> (2015). Directed by Lenny Abrahamson. Canadian/Irish, 15 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_Ci-pAL4eE</p> <p>2. <i>Animal Kingdom</i> (2010). Directed by David Michod. Australia, 15 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNszOI14AWg</p>	<p>Learners must study one from a choice of two set films</p> <p>1. <i>The Babadook</i> (2014). Directed by Jennifer Kent. Australia, 15 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=szaLnKNWC-U</p> <p>2. <i>The Piano</i> (1993). Directed by Jane Campion. New Zealand, 15 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLpzo_nwZpE</p>	<p>Learners must study one from a choice of two set films</p> <p>1. <i>District 9</i> (2009). Directed by Neil Blomkamp. South Africa 2009, 15 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DyLUwOcR5pk</p> <p>2. <i>Mad Max</i> (1979). Directed by George Miller. Australia, 15 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=caHnaRq8Qlg</p>

Elements of Film (01): Section C: Close study: European film

In this section learners need to study at least one European non-English language set film from the list below.

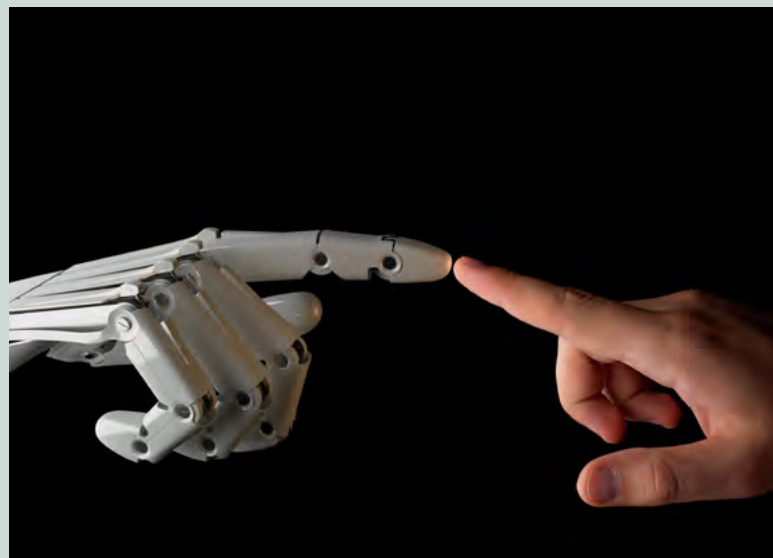


European non-English language set films:

- 1 *Lives of Others* (2006). Directed by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck. Germany, 15
<https://youtu.be/FppW5ml4vdw>
- 2 *Son of Saul* (2015). Directed by László Nemes. Hungary, 15
<https://youtu.be/uh2toNTE7rA>
- 3 *A Prophet* (2009). Directed by Jacques Audiard. France/Italy, 18
<https://youtu.be/yxbOnlbQfYc>
- 4 *The Great Beauty* (2013). Directed by Paolo Sorrentino. Italy/France, 15
<https://youtu.be/Dyt430YkQn0>
- 5 *Ida* (2013). Directed by Pawel Pawlikowski. Polish/Latin/French, 12
https://youtu.be/_JlXxo8qUn0
- 6 *Let the Right One In* (2008). Directed by Thomas Alfredson. Sweden, 15
<https://youtu.be/DYcBSQokyBU>

NEA (02/03) Understanding British Film

In preparation for the production task, learners must watch and make notes on at least one of the British set films listed below, identifying key sequences and the narrative structure within them.



British set film list :

- 1 *The Hallow* (2015). Directed by Corin Hardy. UK, 15
<https://youtu.be/-Wox2Oh2EXw>
- 2 *Gone Too Far* (2015). Directed by Destiny Ekaragha. UK, 12
<https://youtu.be/IEblkZJgNGg>
- 3 *Ex-Machina* (2014). Directed by Alex Garland. UK, 15
<https://youtu.be/Pl8XBKb6DQk>
- 4 *The Double* (2013). Directed by Richard Ayoade. UK, 15
<https://youtu.be/XG8qATRtNuU>
- 5 *Under the Skin* (2013). Directed by Jonathan Glazer. UK, 15
<https://youtu.be/NoSWbyvdhHw>
- 6 *Attack the Block* (2011). Directed by Joe Cornish. UK, 15
<https://youtu.be/cD0gm7dHKKc>

OCR Resources: *the small print:*

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