



Why choose A 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 various critical debates ranging from film poetics to the Auteur and realism to expressionism
- 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 critical approaches and professionally produced films.

Study an exciting and enriching 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 engage with film's broad, cultural and historical heritage and gain an understanding of how meaning has been created through film from the silent era to the present day
- to explore the historic European film movements that helped shape filmmaking in the 20th century
- to explore how film represents different cultures and societies and investigate the ideologies that shape film, and that are shaped by film
- to explore different film forms, such as short films, experimental films, documentary films and silent films
- to explore production processes, technologies and the significance of both viewing conditions to the spectator and the digital in film
- to apply academic and theoretical knowledge into their own production of a short fiction or experimental film or screenplay and produce an evaluation of their production.



Why choose OCR?

- OCR offers a huge, diverse range of set films that were picked with input from both HE and teachers, with 70 set films to choose from allowing teachers to tailor the course to the specific needs of their own learners
- OCR's course has been structured in a logical and coherent way, with two balanced examined components, both with 2 hour exams and both worth 35% of the course and an NEA (coursework) component worth 30% of a learner's final mark
- OCR's course is logically delineated into areas of study on historic US film (from the silent era to 1990), historic European film movements, contemporary film from the UK and US, documentary and a synoptic study of ideology through a choice of three thematic approaches, with short film assessed through the NEA component
- 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 A Level has been designed to allow co-teachability with OCR's AS Level in Film Studies and features a large number of shared set films
- 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 A Level in Film Studies consists of two components that are externally assessed and one NEA component that is assessed by the centre and externally moderated by OCR.

Film History (01)

This component is worth 105 marks and represents 35% of the marks for the A Level.

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

- Section A: Film form in US cinema from the Silent Era to 1990 (55 marks)
- Section B: European Cinema History (50 marks)

Learners must answer **three** questions in Section A and **two** questions in Section B.

Section A: Film Form in US Cinema from the Silent Era to 1990	Section B: European Cinema History
Learners are required to study three US set films in total (one set film from each of the following time periods): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Silent Era• 1930–1960• 1961–1990	Learners are required to study two set films from two different major European film movements or stylistic developments from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Surrealist film (experimental film) and one from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• German expressionism; or• French new wave
Total: 55 marks	Total: 50 marks
Learners must answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the two 10 mark questions• one from a choice two 35 mark essay questions (extended response)	Learners must answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the 15 mark question• one from a choice of two 35 mark essay questions (extended response)• the content for the compulsory experimental films and other film movements may be assessed in either of the 15 mark or 35 mark questions each year.
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">• the micro-elements of film form; and• how these elements construct meanings and contribute to the aesthetics of film• European film movements and stylistic developments and their contribution to aesthetics• contextual background• the experimental nature of film Critical debates on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• film narrative• claims of naturalism and realism as against the expressive

Critical Approaches to Film (02)

This component is worth 105 marks and represents 35% of the marks for the A Level.

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

- Section A: Contemporary British and US Film (35 marks)
- Section B: Documentary (35 marks)
- Section C: Ideology (35 marks)

Learners must answer **one** question from each section - three questions in total across the paper.

Section A: Contemporary British and US Film	Section B: Documentary	Section C: Ideology
Learners are required to study two set films, one from each of the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contemporary British • Contemporary US 	Learners are required to study one set documentary film.	Learners are required to study and compare three set films, one from each of the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-European (Non-English language) • English Language (Non-US) • US Independent
Total: 35 marks	Total: 35 marks	Total: 35 marks
Learners must answer one from a choice of two questions	Learners must answer one from a choice of two questions	Learners must answer one from a choice of three themes. Each theme will have a choice of two questions
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) 	Question type: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended response (35 mark essay)
All three sections of Component 02 require learners to draw upon their knowledge and understanding of the topics covered in Component 1, in particular the micro-elements of film form.		
<p>Questions will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representations <p>(how they are constructed through film form, narrative and genre)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contexts • the significance of viewing conditions to spectators <p>Critical debates on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the significance of digital in film and the new possibilities for cinema • Auteurism 	<p>Questions will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representations <p>(how they are constructed through film form, narrative and the generic conventions of documentary filmmaking)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contexts • Spectatorship <p>Critical debates on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representations of reality and claims of naturalism and realism • Film narrative • filmmakers' theories of film. 	<p>This section is synoptic.</p> <p>Questions will focus on learning from the whole course in order to evaluate the validity of ideology as a critical approach in film.</p>

Making a Short Film (03/04)

This is a non-examined assessment (coursework) component and worth 90 marks and represents 30% of the marks for the A Level.

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

Learners will be required to produce either an individual short film or an equivalent screenplay with a digitally photographed storyboard (60 marks). Learners will carry out an evaluation of their production in relation to the set short films they have studied in preparation for their production (30 marks).

Film History (01): Section A – Film Form in US Cinema from the Silent Era to 1990

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



Silent Era:

- 1 *Wings* (1927). Directed by William A. Wellman. USA, PG
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08NbkvJQq-s>
- 2 *The Gold Rush* (1925). Directed by Charlie Chaplin. USA, U
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDIEvaKBkhU>
- 3 *The Mark of Zorro* (1920). Directed by Fred Niblo and Theodore Reed. USA, U
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37EQ3K5wULA>
- 4 *The General* (1926). Directed by Clyde Bruckman, Buster Keaton. USA, U
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilPk-SCHv30>
- 5 *Sunrise* (1927). Directed by F.W. Murnau. USA, U
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFJtblnLX1s>
- 6 *The Wind* (1928). Directed by Victor Sjöström. USA, not rated
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8Un8SBnjY4>



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=YiVOwxs4OM>

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



Film History (01): Section B: European Cinema History

Learners will be required to study at least two set films. The **two set films** chosen for study must each be from a **different** movement or stylistic development from the lists below:

Experimental Film: European Surrealist Film:

Learners must watch the **two** compulsory short experimental films

AND

One film from either:

German Expressionism or French New Wave

Experimental films:

1. *Un Chien Andalou* (1929). Directed by Luis Buñel. France, 15 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5K1ARvyvAc>
2. *L'Age D'or* (1930). Directed by Luis Buñel. France, 15 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SvINffxBMrs>

German expressionism:

1 *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (1920). Directed by Robert Wiene. Germany, U

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xrg73BUXJLI>

2 *Nosferatu* (1922). Directed by F.W. Murnau. Germany, PG

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZxIJxDr26mM>

3 *Metropolis* (1927). Directed by Fritz Lang. Germany, PG

http://gb.imdb.com/video/imdb/vi1050609177?ref_tt_pv_vi_aiv_1

French new wave:

1 *The 400 Blows* (1959). Directed by Francois Trauffaut. France, PG

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCDEAu4R8hA>

2 *À bout de souffle* (1960). Directed by Jean-Luc Godard. France, PG

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i89oN8v7RdY>

3 *Cleo from 5 to 7* (1962). Directed by Agnes Varda. France, PG

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYeZsW267P8>



Critical Approaches to Film (02): Section A: Contemporary British and US Film

In this section learners will be required to study and compare **two contemporary set films**, one of which must be from the British set film list below and one of which must be from the US set film list below:

Contemporary British set film list:

- 1 *Pride* (2014). Directed by Matthew Warchus. Britain, 15
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsFY0wHpR5o>
- 2 *Gone Too Far* (2013). Directed by Destiny Ekaragha. Britain, 12
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vObF2JkRETU>
- 3 *Ex-Machina* (2014). Directed by Alex Garland. Britain, 15
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYGzRB4Pnq8>
- 4 *The Angel's Share* (2012). Directed by Ken Loach. Britain, 15
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NcQlvmR21VU>
- 5 *We Need to Talk About Kevin* (2011). Directed by Lynne Ramsay. Britain, 15
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZLRgAe2jLaw>
- 6 *Skyfall* (2012). Directed by Sam Mendes. Britain, 12
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6kw1UVovByw>

Contemporary US set film list

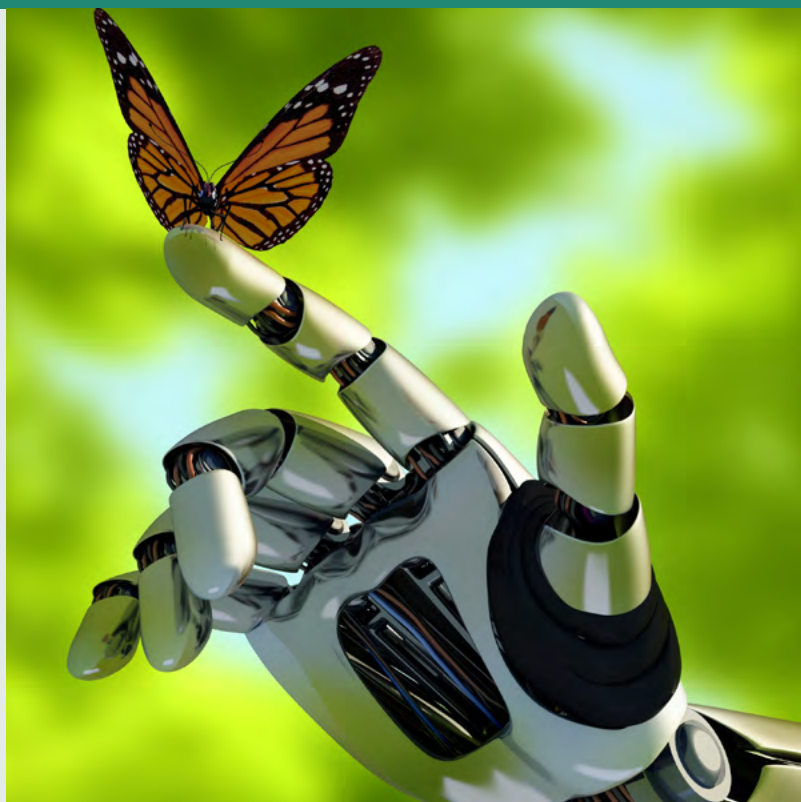
- 1 *Guardians of the Galaxy* (2014). Directed by James Gunn. USA, 12
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B16Bo47KS2g>
- 2 *The Hunger Games* (2012). Directed by Gary Ross. USA, 15
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4S9a5V9ODuY>
- 3 *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (Abrams 2015). Directed by J.J. Abrams. USA, 12
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sGbxmsDFVnE>
- 4 *The Dark Knight Rises* (2012). Directed by Christopher Nolan. USA. 12
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8evyE9TuYk>
- 5 *Zootopia* (2016). Directed by Rich Moore, Jared Bush, Byron Howard. USA, PG
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jWM0ct-OLsM>
- 6 *Jurassic World* (2015). Directed by Colin Trevorrow. USA, 12
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFinNxS5KN4>

Critical Approaches to Film (02): Section B: Documentary

Documentary set film list

Learners must study **one** set film from the list below:

- 1 *The Stories We Tell* (2013). Directed by Sarah Polley, 12
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytq4VZ2Nyxg>
- 2 *Searching for Sugarman* (2012). Directed by Malik Bendjelloul, 12
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKXewWDh1og>
- 3 *5 Broken Cameras* (2011). Directed by Emad Burnat, Guy Davidi, 15 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30JqnWtLvIU>
- 4 *The Act of Killing* (2012). Directed by Joshua Oppenheimer, 15
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SD5oMxbMchM>
- 5 *Man on Wire* (2008). Directed by James Marsh, 12
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ElawNRm9NWM>
- 6 *Citizenfour* (2014). Directed by Laura Poitras, 15
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiGwAvd5mvM>



Critical Approaches to Film (02): Section C: Ideology

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

- US Independent
- English Language (Non-US)
- Non-European Non-English Language

Ideology set film list

	Learners must select one of the 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 Terrance 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=htlsOf3PnGY</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>
Non-European (Non-English Language) (World)	<p>Learners must study one from a choice of two set films</p> <p>1. <i>A Separation</i> (2011). Directed by Asghar Farhadi. Iran, PG https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2Sswx_vrWk</p> <p>2. <i>Our Little Sister</i> (2016). Directed by Hirokazu Koreeda. Japan, PG https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NvR4kSe2Haw</p>	<p>Learners must study one from a choice of two set films</p> <p>1. <i>Yojimbo</i> (The Bodyguard) (1967). Directed by Akira Kurosawa. Japan, PG https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y_1iT_GmHTE</p> <p>2. <i>Y Tu Mama Tambien</i> (2001). Directed by Alfonso Cuaron. Mexico, 18 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Qg6n7V3kO4</p>	<p>Learners must study one from a choice of two set films</p> <p>1. <i>Battle of Algiers</i> (1965). Directed by Gilo Pontecorvo. Algeria, 15 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-7j4WVTgWc</p> <p>2. <i>The Grandmaster</i> (2013). Directed by Wong Kar-Wai. China, 15 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BO1yfTfozhk</p>

NEA (03) Making Short Film

Learners must watch the set film compilation in preparation for their production (this is equivalent to watching one feature length film).

NEA Compilation total running time 87 minutes

Slap (2014). Directed by Nick Rowland. UK (25 mins) <https://www.shortoftheweek.com/2016/06/11/slap/>

Tight Jeans (2008). Directed by Destiny Ekharaga. UK (9 mins) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BcPBCrUc8YI>

The Ellington Kid (2012). Directed by Dan Sully (5 minutes) <https://vimeo.com/60639863>

Over (2015). Directed by Jörn Threlfall. UK (14 mins) <https://www.shortoftheweek.com/2016/04/16/over/>

Echo (2012). Directed by Lewis Arnold. UK (17 mins) <https://vimeo.com/44040317>

Operator (2015). Directed by Caroline Bartleet. UK (6 mins) <http://www.operatorsshortfilm.com/>

Arrival (2016). Directed by Daniel Montanarini. UK (5 mins) <https://www.shortoftheweek.com/2016/06/10/the-arrival/>

The Fly (2014). Directed by Jack Doolan. UK (6 mins) <https://www.shortoftheweek.com/2015/09/21/the-fly/>



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