

Candidate Style Answers

GCSE Media Studies

OCR GCSE in Media Studies: J526

Unit: B322

These candidate style answers are designed to accompany the OCR GCSE Media Studies specification for teaching from September 2009.

GCSE Media Studies

B322 Textual Analysis and Media Studies Topic (Moving Image)

OCR has produced these candidate style answers to support teachers in interpreting the assessment criteria for the new GCSE specifications and to bridge the gap between new specification release and availability of exemplar candidate work.

This content has been produced by senior OCR examiners, with the support of the Qualification Manager, to illustrate how the sample assessment questions might be answered and provide some commentary on what factors contribute to an overall grading. The candidate style answers are not written in a way that is intended to replicate student work but to demonstrate what a “good” or “excellent” response might include, supported by examiner commentary and conclusions.

As these responses have not been through full moderation and do not replicate student work, they have not been graded and are instead, banded “medium” or “high” to give an indication of the level of each response.

Please note that this resource is provided for advice and guidance only and does not in any way constitute an indication of grade boundaries or endorsed answers.

Section A – Answer all questions

The extract is from the film ‘King Arthur’ (Buena Vista Home Video, 2005)

Characters:

<i>Arthur</i>	<i>in charge of the small band of archers</i>
<i>Guinevere</i>	<i>The female archer</i>
<i>Lancelot</i>	<i>Says that Guinevere looks frightened</i>
<i>Tristan</i>	<i>Fires the first arrow for Arthur</i>
<i>Dagonet</i>	<i>Runs out with an axe to break the ice</i>
<i>Bors</i>	<i>Runs out to help Arthur rescue Dagonet</i>
<i>Cynric</i>	<i>Leader of the larger group</i>

Advice to candidates

- *You have three minutes to read all the questions before the extract begins*
- *The extract will be played four times*
- ***First screening:*** *watch the extract; no notes are to be made at this time*
- ***Second screening:*** *watch the extract and make notes*
- *There will be a break for you to make notes on the answers to the questions*
- ***Third screening:*** *watch the extract and make notes*
- *There will be another short break to make notes*
- ***Fourth and final screening:*** *watch the extract and make notes*

Answer all three questions using examples from the extract.

1) Explain two ways in which the characters and/or events in the extract fit the action adventure genre. (10)	
Candidate style answer	Examiner's commentary
<p><i>There are many typical features of the action adventure genre. There is always a mission involved, usually shown right at the start of the film. Quick cutting, fast camera angles and a fast paced soundtrack are used to set the mood and create tension. (turn over for Q1)</i></p> <p><i>1. The main characters in this film are shown clearly - Arthur easier of the smaller group speaks first as the camera focus on this face, and cynic, the first one shown out of the larger group of Archers. They are both a shown as strong and powerful leaders, which is typical of main characters. In the action adventure genre The battle is also very typical of this genre. It is a fast moving, quick cut battle which clearly states the good and bad in the oppositions.</i></p>	<p>Medium level response</p> <p>There are valid general comments on the genre, along with reference to technical devices used to create emotion in the audience.</p> <p>The comments about characters are appropriate, although not well expressed. The candidate appreciates the opposition expected in the genre, and recognises that this is reflected in the presentation of the characters. The arguments are supported by relevant examples from the extract.</p>

<p>2) Explain how each of the following is used to create effects that fit the action adventure genre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soundtrack • Camerawork • Editing • Mise-en-scene <p style="text-align: right;">(20)</p>	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<p><i>There are many parts to this film to fit the action adventure genre. The first of these is used at the start of the battle when both sides are preparing themselves. Quick, snappy cutting is used and in this close-ups of both side's faces are shown to show the extreme sense of hate and opposition. The soundtrack is also used in this and many other in the action adventure genre to create and build tension and set the mood. A quiet classic song is used here which lasts throughout the film clip and changes volume and speed when something new happens. The best mise-en-scène of this clip is the first one the six against the fast approaching group. It immediately shows you who the 'goodies' and 'baddies' are because the smaller group, although facing the other wall are in the foreground.</i></p>	<p>Medium level response</p> <p>The answer is an abbreviated explanation of the bullet points in the question. There is no particular organisation to indicate candidate clarity on the issues.</p> <p>Editing and camerawork are referred to, and some appropriate comments are made.</p> <p>Soundtrack is recognised as enhancing mood and thereby manipulating audiences.</p> <p>Mise-en-scene is explored through the positioning of characters, and hence audience, to appreciate opposing sides in a conflict.</p> <p>(Greater organisation/ paragraphing would facilitate clarity for the candidate, and enable specific exemplification of the relevant points.)</p>

3) Discuss the ways in which people and/or war are represented in the extract. (20)

<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<p><i>The battle commences as soon as the clip starts, with the larger group approaching in the distance. In the smaller group there are five men and one woman, Guinevere which is surprising as she is represented as a strong leader, as strong or maybe stronger than some of the males as she is the last one standing and continues to fight till the end. War is represented in "King Arthur" as an almost old-fashioned way of gaining freedom. The archers are all wearing Victorian type clothes which suggests that it is not set in the modern times that there are new ways in which you could fight. The bow and arrows which replace guns also suggest this. Cynric (leader of larger group) has a scar on his face which is a sign of his history in battle whether victory or defeat, you do not know. This also suggests to the audience that he may be a weaker warrior than he seems. The opposition sides faces are often contorted into angry expressions which gives you an insight into their characters and personalities. However, the smaller group are much more calm and composed, which makes them seem more confident, which could suggest that they may win this battle.</i></p>	<p>Medium level response</p> <p>Tendency to be descriptive as opposed to analytical.</p> <p>Some valid points made, including a token strong woman in a cast of men.</p> <p>The weaponry is understood to represent the historical context of the action.</p> <p>Costume and appearance are seen as reflecting the difference between the two sides, as is calmness in the face of danger, as opposed to anger.</p> <p>(Reasonably well argued – could perhaps have included a consideration of self sacrifice.)</p>