



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

**Tuesday 3 June 2025 – Morning**

**A Level Film Studies**

**H410/02 Critical Approaches to Film**

**Time allowed: 2 hours**



**You must have:**

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- Answer **three** questions in total:  
Section A: Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.  
Section B: Answer **either** Question 3 **or** Question 4.  
Section C: Answer **one** question from Questions 5–10.

**INFORMATION**

- The total mark for this paper is **105**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [ ].
- Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (\*).
- This document has **8** pages.

**ADVICE**

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

## Section A

## Contemporary British and US Film

Answer Question 1 **or** Question 2.

You have studied **one** British film and **one** US film from the lists.

| British                                                                 | US                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Pride</i> (2014). Directed by Matthew Warchus. UK                    | <i>Guardians of the Galaxy</i> (2014). Directed by James Gunn. USA            |
| <i>Gone Too Far</i> (2013). Directed by Destiny Ekaragha. UK            | <i>The Hunger Games</i> (2012). Directed by Gary Ross. USA                    |
| <i>Ex-Machina</i> (2014). Directed by Alex Garland. UK                  | <i>Star Wars: The Force Awakens</i> (2015). Directed by J.J. Abrams. USA      |
| <i>The Angel's Share</i> (2012). Directed by Ken Loach. UK              | <i>The Dark Knight Rises</i> (2012). Directed by Christopher Nolan. USA       |
| <i>We Need to Talk About Kevin</i> (2011). Directed by Lynne Ramsay. UK | <i>Zootopia</i> (2016). Directed by Rich Moore, Jared Bush, Byron Howard. USA |
| <i>Skyfall</i> (2012). Directed by Sam Mendes. UK                       | <i>Jurassic World</i> (2015). Directed by Colin Trevorrow. USA                |

## EITHER

- 1\* How far do digital production or digital exhibition technologies help to shape spectator response to a film?

You must include examples from **one British film** and **one US film** you have studied. [35]

## OR

- 2\* To what extent do the conventions of narrative structure affect how different social and cultural groups are represented?

You must include examples from **one British film** and **one US film** you have studied. [35]

**Section B****Documentary**

Answer Question 3 **or** Question 4.

You have studied **one** documentary film from the list.

| <b>Documentary</b>                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Stories We Tell</i> (2013). Directed by Sarah Polley             |
| <i>Searching For Sugarman</i> (2012). Directed by Malik Bendjelloul |
| <i>5 Broken Cameras</i> (2011). Directed by Emad Burnat, Guy Davidi |
| <i>The Act Of Killing</i> (2012). Directed by Joshua Oppenheimer    |
| <i>Man On Wire</i> (2008). Directed by James Marsh                  |
| <i>Citizenfour</i> (2014). Directed by Laura Poitras                |

**EITHER**

- 3\*** 'Documentary films should represent reality accurately.'

Referring to the theories of Grierson and Pennebaker, discuss this view in relation to examples from the documentary film you have studied. **[35]**

**OR**

- 4\*** Discuss how the documentary film you have studied uses cinematography (including lighting) to help construct the spectator's understanding of the film. **[35]**

## Section C

## Ideology

Answer **one** of Questions 5–10.

You have studied films from **one** of the themes:

- Family and Home
- Outsiders
- Conflict.

If you have studied films from the theme of **Family and Home**, answer Question 5 **or** Question 6.

If you have studied films from the theme of **Outsiders**, answer Question 7 **or** Question 8.

If you have studied films from the theme of **Conflict**, answer Question 9 **or** Question 10.

## Theme: Family and Home

Answer Question 5 **or** Question 6.

You have studied **three** films from your chosen theme: one film from the **US Independent** list, one film from the **Non-US English Language** list and one film from the **Non-European Non-English Language** list.

| US Independent                                                         | Non-US English Language                                                 | Non-European Non-English Language                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Moonrise Kingdom</i> (2012).<br>Directed by Wes Anderson.<br>USA    | <i>Room</i> (2015). Directed by<br>Lenny Abrahamson. Canada/<br>Ireland | <i>A Separation</i> (2011). Directed<br>by Asghar Farhadi. Iran            |
| <i>The Tree of Life</i> (2011).<br>Directed by Terrence Malick.<br>USA | <i>Animal Kingdom</i> (2010).<br>Directed by David Michod.<br>Australia | <i>Our Little Sister</i> (2015).<br>Directed by Hirokazu Koreeda.<br>Japan |

## EITHER

- 5\* Discuss how the films you have studied use mise-en-scène to shape the spectator's understanding of family and home.

You must draw comparisons between the **three** films you have studied in your answer. [35]

## OR

- 6\* 'Individual spectators may interpret a film in ways that might clash with the beliefs and values of the filmmaker.'

Discuss this claim in relation to the films you have studied.

You must draw comparisons between the **three** films you have studied in your answer. [35]

**Theme: Outsiders**

Answer Question 7 **or** Question 8.

You have studied **three** films from your chosen theme: one film from the **US Independent** list, one film from the **Non-US English Language** list and one film from the **Non-European Non-English Language** list.

| US Independent                                                                     | Non-US English Language                                          | Non-European Non-English Language                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night</i> (2014). Directed by Ana Lily Amirpour. USA | <i>The Babadook</i> (2014). Directed by Jennifer Kent. Australia | <i>Yojimbo (The Bodyguard)</i> (1961). Directed by Akira Kurosawa. Japan |
| <i>Elephant</i> (2003). Directed by Gus Van Sant. USA                              | <i>The Piano</i> (1993). Directed by Jane Campion. New Zealand   | <i>Y Tu Mama Tambien</i> (2001). Directed by Alfonso Cuarón. Mexico      |

**EITHER**

- 7\*** Discuss how the films you have studied use mise-en-scène to shape the spectator's understanding of outsiders.

You must draw comparisons between the **three** films you have studied in your answer. **[35]**

**OR**

- 8\*** 'Individual spectators may interpret a film in ways that might clash with the beliefs and values of the filmmaker.'

Discuss this claim in relation to the films you have studied.

You must draw comparisons between the **three** films you have studied in your answer. **[35]**

**Theme: Conflict**

Answer Question 9 **or** Question 10.

You have studied **three** films from your chosen theme: one film from the **US Independent** list, one film from the **Non-US English Language** list and one film from the **Non-European Non-English Language** list.

| <b>US Independent</b>                                                 | <b>Non-US English Language</b>                                       | <b>Non-European Non-English Language</b>                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>The Hurt Locker</i> (2008).<br>Directed by Kathryn Bigelow.<br>USA | <i>District 9</i> (2009). Directed by<br>Neil Blomkamp. South Africa | <i>Battle of Algiers</i> (1965).<br>Directed by Gilo Pontecorvo.<br>Algeria |
| <i>Whiplash</i> (2015). Directed by<br>Damien Chazelle. USA           | <i>Mad Max</i> (1979). Directed by<br>George Miller. Australia       | <i>The Grandmaster</i> (2013).<br>Directed by Wong Kar-Wai.<br>China        |

**EITHER**

- 9\*** Discuss how the films you have studied use mise-en-scène to shape the spectator's understanding of conflict.

You must draw comparisons between the **three** films you have studied in your answer.

**[35]**

**OR**

- 10\*** 'Individual spectators may interpret a film in ways that might clash with the beliefs and values of the filmmaker.'

Discuss this claim in relation to the films you have studied.

You must draw comparisons between the **three** films you have studied in your answer.

**[35]**

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**

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