Key Stage 4.5

Film Studies
A-Level Preparation Booklet

Name

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This Booklet

This booklet forms the basis of the knowledge and skills you will need to succeed in Film Studies at A-Level at Hammersmith Academy. Work your way through it, according to the weekly tasks.

Each week will include:

- A technical/practical task
- A general 'Cultural Awareness' reading task
- A short film anthology task
- A preparation task for set texts

Film Studies Set Texts

The following are the film texts to be studied:

- *Some Like it Hot* (1959)
- *Do The Right Thing* (1989)
- *Amy* (2015)
- *Pan's Labyrinth* (2006)
- *City of God* (2002)
- *This is England* (2006)
- *Shaun of the Dead* (2004)
- *One Week, The Scarecrow, The High Sign, Cops* – short films by Buster Keaton

Whilst it is possible there may be some change, the majority will stay the same. The stronger your knowledge of these texts (including summaries, key ideas, themes, characters, directors, criticism and their contexts), the easier you will find Film Studies at A-Level. It is expected you will be studying these texts alongside the work in this booklet.

Task 1:
Technical: Recreating

Recreate an iconic scene using your phone to edit/shoot in sequence; it should be no more than 2min long. The aim of the task is to practice framing and to help get into the mind of a director. Use a Lego figure/sibling's most treasured stuffed animal as the actors.

Your primary focus should be:

- Framing of the shot
- Distance of the 'actors' from the camera

Possible sequences:

Fight Club   *Jaws*   *Reservoir Dogs*   *The Matrix*

Suggested research: Framing and Composition

Task 2:

Cultural Awareness: The Studio System
Work your way through the reading list below; you will be required to work with and evaluate these ideas:
Initial reading

- https://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/UsefulNotes/TheGoldenAgeOfHollywood
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Studio_system#%3A%7E%3Atext%3DA_studio_system_is_a%2Cnumber_of_large_movie_studios.?wprov=sfla1
- https://filmschoolrejects.com/studios-owning-movie-theaters/

Write a 200 word summary of the Studio System, then evaluate it by answering the following questions:
- What were the benefits for the studios in the studio system?
- What were the drawbacks for the consumer?
- How did the talent fare under the system (actors, writers, directors)?
- Do these principles still apply today with institutions like Netflix producing, financing and 'distributing' their films?

Task 3:

Cultural Awareness: Auteur Filmmaking
Work your way through the reading list below; you will be required to work with and evaluate these ideas:
Auteur Theory
- https://indiefilmhustle.com/auteur-theroy/
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzTRjsefTXc
- https://www.nytimes.com/1993/02/20/movies/the-auteur-theory-of-film-holy-or-just-full-of-holes.html

Write a 200 word summary of the auteur film making, then evaluate it by answering the following questions:
- What is auteurism?
- Can you have an auteur filmmaker?
- Who are notable auteur filmmakers?
- Do you agree or disagree that a film can be a single director's vision? Why?

Task 4:

Technical: Storyboarding
Create a storyboard of a sequence of a chase scene down a street. Storyboard how this could look if you wanted to create tension
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQsvhq28sOI

Expectation: At least 16 shots planned.

Task 5:

Technical: Framing
Create a storyboard of a conversation sequence between two characters; as the sequence continues, create tension using only framing.
How to shoot slow-building Tension   How Hitchcock Creates Suspense   How Spielberg Builds Nail-Biting Suspense

Expectation: At least 16 shots planned.