

SUBJECT: Media Studies

EXAM BOARD: AQA



Course Overview

Paper One

For this exam, students will explore a range of unseen and studied close study products and respond to questions which focus on media language, audiences, representations and industry. CSPs include: Advertising, Music Videos, Newspapers, Radio and the Independent Film Industry. The paper will also contain two extended essay questions which will allow students to explore contemporary media landscapes and make their own judgements on the validity of the theoretical framework.

Paper Two

Students will focus on the in-depth media forms of television, magazines and online, social and participatory media/video games. This paper contains three extended essay responses (one of which is a synoptic response) as well as an unseen analysis response.

NEA

Students will choose one of six briefs supplied by the exam board and create two media products from the print, moving image or e-media platforms. This will be supported by a 500 word Statement of Intent and will make up 30% of the final grade.

Useful websites

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/media-studies/as-and-a-level/media-studies-7572>

[Home](#) | [BBFC](#)

<https://www.bfi.org.uk/>

<https://www.essentialmediatheory.com/>

<https://www.alevelmedia.co.uk/>

Essential textbooks and reading list

In advance of September, students should ensure that they read/installed the following:

1. Installed a minimum of three news apps to their phones/laptops including The Mail Online (CSP text), The i (CSP text) and the BBC News app and be reading them regularly.
2. Watched a minimum of two of Mark Kermode's Secrets of Cinema in order to get an understanding of the relationships between media texts and their social/historical contexts
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0bbn5x8>
3. How many of the top 100 films have you seen?
<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2019/sep/13/100-best-films-movies-of-the-21st-century>

If you would like to get a head start on media theory, you may buy Mark Dixon's Essential Media Theory. This is NOT essential, but it does contain all of the theory you will need for A level.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Media-Theory-Level-Essential-Revision/dp/036714543X>

Please do not purchase the AQA Media Studies textbooks – they are already out of date and we are expecting a new edition in 2022.