



**GCE AS/A level**

1182/01

**FILM STUDIES**

**FM2**

**British and American Film**

A.M. MONDAY, 16 May 2011

2½ hours

### **ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

In addition to this examination paper, you will need:

- Resource material
- a 12 page answer book.

### **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **three** questions, **one** from each section.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

### **INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

Each question carries 40 marks.

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question.

You are reminded that assessment will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

**FM2: British and American Film**

*Answer **three** questions – **one** from each section.*

**Section A: Producers and Audiences**

*Choose **one** question from this section.*

**Either**

1. Study the items in **Part A** of the resource material, which include:

- Article on streaming films using Playstation3
- Promotion for Consumer Electronics show, featuring 3D television
- Film fans' perception of DVD box sets of TV series.

Use this material, together with your own studies, to answer the following question:

**'The current revolution in technology is changing the way both producers and audiences think of film and the film experience.'** How far do you agree with this statement? [40]

**Or**

2. Study the items in **Part B** of the resource material, which include:

- Article: 'The Rise and Fall of Star Power'
- UK Box Office List for 2009
- New Stars: Two Profiles.

Use this material, together with your own studies, to answer the following question:

**'Neither producers nor audiences need stars any more.'** How far do you agree with this statement? [40]

**Section B: British Film Topics**

Choose **one** question from this section.

**British Film and Genre**

You should discuss a minimum of **two British** films in your answer and base it on **one** of the following: **Horror or Comedy**.

**Either**

3. How are narrative devices used to increase the impact of horror or comedy in the films you have studied for this topic? [40]

**Or**

4. How is gender represented in the horror or comedy films you have studied for this topic? [40]

**British Film and Stars**

You should discuss a minimum of **two British** films in your answer and base it on **one** of the following: **Julie Christie or Ewan McGregor**.

**Either**

5. How far do the narratives of your chosen films function as 'star vehicles'? [40]

**Or**

6. How far does your chosen star represent 'British' values in the films you have chosen for this topic? [40]

**British Film and Production Companies**

You should discuss a minimum of **two British** films in your answer and base it on **one** of the following: **Ealing Studios or Working Title**.

**Either**

7. How far does genre contribute to the distinct identity of your chosen production company? [40]

**Or**

8. How far do the films you have studied for this topic share similar messages and values? [40]

**British Film: Cultural Study**

*You should discuss a minimum of two British films in your answer and base it on one of the following: **Swinging Britain 1963-1973** or **Thatcher's Britain: the 1980s**.*

**Either**

9. How far do the narratives of your chosen films place characters within a society that determines many of their choices? [40]

**Or**

10. What are some of the ways in which your chosen films represent **either** rebellion **or** repression? [40]

**British Film: Social-Political Study – ‘Living with Crime’**

*You should discuss a minimum of two British films in your answer.*

**Either**

11. How far do the narratives of your chosen films dramatise the problems facing key characters? [40]

**Or**

12. How are authority figures represented in the films you have studied for this topic? [40]

**British Film: Identity Study – ‘Borders and Belonging’**

*You should discuss a minimum of two British films in your answer.*

**Either**

13. How is the idea of a ‘border’ present in the narrative of the films you have studied for this topic? [40]

**Or**

14. How far do characters in the films you have studied for this topic challenge stereotypes? [40]

**Section C: American Film – Comparative Study**

*Choose **one** question from this section.*

*You should compare a minimum of two American films in your answer.*

**Either**

15. With particular reference to the endings of your chosen American films, compare their messages and values. [40]

**Or**

16. How useful have your wider contextual studies been in understanding similarities and differences in the American films you have studied for this topic? [40]



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**Resource Material for use with Section A**

### Resource material: Part A

Study the items in **Part A** of the resource material for use with **Section A, Question 1**.

#### Item 1: Article on streaming films using Playstation3

### Sony and Netflix in deal to stream movies using PS3



Netflix, which lets members download films over the Internet or mails DVDs to their homes, has more than 11 million US subscribers. In 2008 Netflix and Microsoft reached a deal involving the US software giant's Xbox 360 videogame consoles.

In 2009, Netflix and Sony announced that PlayStation3 owners would be able to use the game console to stream movies and TV shows to their television sets or computers.

- Relax News, 27 October 2009

#### Item 2: Promotion for Consumer Electronic Show

### At Consumer Electronics Show, 3D TV will take centre stage.

After the huge success of James Cameron's 3D blockbuster *Avatar* at the cinema box office, grab the popcorn and 3D glasses and get ready for the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, an important showcase for new entertainment technology. 3D TV is on its way.



- adapted from an article by Dawn C. Chimelewski and Alex Pham, *Los Angeles Times*, 5 January 2010

### Item 3: Film fans' perception of DVD box sets of TV series.

#### TV Show or Film? DVD consumers say it doesn't matter.

Where did the big movies go? They have become mega-hit television series that in turn became mega-hit DVD box sets. Increasingly, the home cinema audience sees these TV series as being just like the best films.



*'24 is so much more satisfying than any Action movie like Bond – it can do what no movie can do just because of its running time. And the suspense is all the greater for the cliff-hanger end to every episode'*



*'I love the comic Super-hero movies like Spiderman, but Heroes is something else. Like other TV series it has a large number of very different characters – and they all have superhuman powers!'*



- adapted from Canwest News Service, 26 December 2009

### Resource Material: Part B

Study the items in **Part B** of the resource material for use with **Section A, Question 2**.

#### Item 1: Article - 'The Rise and Fall of Star Power'

### The Rise and Fall of Star Power

There has been a long list of recent star-driven films that have disappointed at the box office. Meanwhile the starless *Saw* and the *Final Destination* franchises hit big on high-concept gore alone. *Avatar* is the most high profile of recent blockbusters which sells itself on special effects rather than superstar appeal.

At least three factors can be identified in explaining the falling appeal of stars:

- celebrity overexposure in the media
- exhibition: very brief cinema releases for many star-driven films
- internet buzz becoming a greater influence than big marketing budgets.

- adapted from an article by Hannah McGill, *Sight & Sound*, February 2010

#### Item 2: UK Box Office List for 2009

### Few "A" List Stars in UK Box Office Top Twelve Films of 2009

1	<i>Avatar</i>	Fox
2	<i>Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince</i>	Warner
3	<i>Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs</i>	Fox
4	<i>Up</i>	Disney
5	<i>Slumdog Millionaire</i>	Pathe
6	<i>Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen</i>	Paramount
7	<i>The Twilight Saga: New Moon</i>	E1
8	<i>Sherlock Holmes</i>	Warner
9	<i>The Hangover</i>	Warner
10	<i>Star Trek</i>	Paramount
11	<i>Monsters vs Aliens</i>	Paramount
12	<i>Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel</i>	Fox

- Source: *Box Office Mojo*



### Item 3: New Stars – Two profiles



#### **Katie Jarvis: *Fish Tank***

The Cannes Film Festival anointed a new star today. A teenager with no acting experience was discovered having a row with her boyfriend on a railway station platform in Essex.

Katie Jarvis, 17, is a raw and compelling presence in every scene of *Fish Tank*.

- adapted from an article by Ben Hoyle, *The Times*,  
14 May 2009

#### **Gabby Sidibe: *Precious***

Gabby Sidibe feels like she's living out a Hollywood dream. The 24-year-old, who grew up in Harlem and had acted only in college productions, won the coveted lead role in *Precious*.

Making her debut as the obese and abused teenage single mom was a challenge Gabby wasn't afraid to take.

- adapted from an article by Jeanne Wolf in *Parade*, 23 October 2009

