

Candidate (A)

Sound and editing.

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Techniques

(Midshot) Gender rep.

Mise-en-scène/Editing

* Eye-level as girl walks in

Support from colleagues

Hi-tech

(tracks) → as she walks in

Low-angle

overconfidence
More power

High-angle

Commands girl to kneel

(Closeup of ticking time)

Woman in red

unspoken - background

The Doctor placed at high-angle

lesser power - caged

Eye-level & low-angle

confidence

intelligence

stands up - gaining power

Fade to White

temporal changed

location

midshot - cold body lang

Jump cuts

Martha's colleague

Man - still low angle

Frustration

* Midshot

High-angle

Low-angle of Doctor

Wiser

Camera peeks up

Man becomes in

high-angle

loss of power

Long shot

unsteady body language

Midshot

girl runs to hug colleagues

* High angle of girl

does what she's told

- obedient

P.O.V.

* Female friends as group-pan

Support (female)

(Other male characters)

Eye-level - closeup

trust in the girl, smile

Man with a gun next to him, bruises on face

Non-diegetic sound

women in background with gun

stabilizing camera shot

spreading word - people hear

Sound bridging

underedge

1) Throughout the extract of 'Doctor Who', there is a fairly stereotypical ~~view~~ representation on gender. This is shown by the various camera shots and mise-en-scène connoting gender difference.

The episode starts with ~~a~~ a non-diegetic sound to reinforce that something memorable is about to occur. The mise-en-scène utilises high-key lighting in a hi-tech institutions guarded by men. Although this is normalised, ~~it~~ to some extent ~~is~~ it is quite stereotypical as it underlines the fact that men are more suited in safe-guarding a place. As Martha walks in, she is placed at eye-level to the audience and the tracking camera allows the viewers to see her worried facial expressions as she look towards her colleagues for encouragement. This might suggest the fact that women are usually weak and need support when they are about to take a big step.

Unlike Martha, the man holds more power. This is also emphasised by his formal costume and relaxed facial expressions. Furthermore, he is placed on a low-angle to show his overconfidence. As an audience, the camera positioning therefore makes us look up to him, in the point of view of Martha as he commands her to kneel. This scene might underline a patriarchal society where women have no choice ~~to~~ but to abide by the rules. The woman in the background ~~with~~ in the red dress is also

in a long-shot, although her importance is not high-lighted in any way. A connotation of that might be ~~the~~ that some female voice in the society are left unspoken or unheard.

Because it is a long take scene, continuity editing is used to show the different reactions of the people present in the room. The shot-reverse-shot between Martha and the man allows the audience to see the fear on ~~to~~ her face and the joy on his by using close-ups. It then jumpcuts to the Doctor, being placed at a high-angle to show his isolation and ~~helpless~~ helplessness as he was caged. This allows the audience to sympathise with him. Furthermore, it is reinforced when the scene jumpcuts to Martha to show the concern on her face about him. Stereotypically, this might show that women are more emotional.

However, as Martha starts speaking, the scene gets somewhat incongruous. This is because, by a close-up, ~~the~~ the audience can see the sudden change in her facial expressions going from fearful to confidence. Although she is placed at a high-angle as she speaks, the audience can easily relate to her as she shows more knowledge than the man himself. Her power is also defined when she stands up and speaks up to the man. The close-up of the ticking stopwatch also conveys to the audience about the importance of time in that scene and how she was managing it efficiently. This scene suddenly erase the ~~feminine~~ assumptions made about her and despite being

placed at a high angle, she is shown to be smart and firm, which might be the representation of women in the modern era.

Her intelligence is also emphasised when the 'fade-to-white' editing shows the temporal change as she narrates what she had done in the past. The mise-en-scène utilises low-key lighting and the cold she was suffering from when she went on the mission. A connotation of that might be that women face a lot of struggles in their lives.

The sound bridging continues to show the loss of power of the man as the Doctor rises up. He is framed in a one-shot to show that he is suddenly alone as the scene jumpcuts to the other characters in two-shots. His loss of power is also reinforced by the use of high-angle that allows the audience to look down to him, as whilst the caged Doctor is suddenly placed in a low-angle to show that he has power over him. This might establish the fact that a man who is loved, trusted and respected has more power towards another one who works for his self-interest. Furthermore, the panning camera showing the happiness in Martha's colleagues' faces due to her deeds might also mean that women are more likely to gain approval and support on what they do.

Overall, in the extract of 'Doctor Who', the representation of gender is mostly stereotypical as it shows the struggles and burden of women

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in a patriarchal society. However, there is also a
modern representation of women that is normalised
and chronological, such as the way they deal with
issues on their own.

Excellent



Candidate (B)

Sound and editing

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man in front - woman walking in
everyone looking at woman = in trouble
everyone behind - helpless
golden -
looking down on woman
up at man
pan to see other characters
zoom in to timer - running out of time
painting speaking
man losing control - shouting
everyone saying doc = powerful
camera rises when looking at man - POV shot
of doc becoming human again
follows man → can → to ground → "NO" →
not powerful anymore
when woman kneels can tilts
reestablishing/wide shot to show studio
can look @ man - when doc in cage
mode of address - woman explains to man &
audience at same time
shows lots of people saying 'doc' → roles
reversed with man and everyone else
CU of weapon - taken from him

1 The extract starts with a close-up of a man
in a suit, with three people at the far
back and below him. He starts in focus,
while the other characters are out of focus,
suggesting that he is more powerful than
them. The camera then focuses on a female

character, who seems worried. The mise en scene suggests this because ~~her~~ of her anxious facial expression. The camera is at a low angle ~~when the man~~ showing the man (looking up at him), while there ~~is~~ is a high angle when showing the woman (looking down at her). This suggests that the man is in control and more powerful ~~in this~~. From these shots, ~~men are~~ ~~this~~ men are represented as dominant over women. This is a traditional stereotypical view but the extract later challenges some representations of gender.

It is clear that this drama is a science-fiction, because of the various special effects. Therefore, ~~the~~ verisimilitude is achieved by making it seem realistic with the characters having different thoughts and feelings. There is a close-up to a goblin in a cage, ~~so~~ portraying that he is trapped and helpless. His facial expression reinforces this. At this moment, the man still seems more powerful than the woman. There is shot/reverse shot when the two are speaking to add fluency to the conversation. The man's power over the woman and indeed the other characters

is constantly expressed. He gives instructions to his 'army', where there is cross-cutting to show that it is happening at the same time. The shot starts off at a canted angle to ~~per~~ show perhaps that his 'army' is evil and, again, ~~co~~ indicates that this drama is science-fiction, ~~at~~ (therefore unusual).

There is ~~constant~~ ~~are~~ constant inserts of a clock ticking, showing it with a close-up shot. The time is counting down and the diegetic sound creates suspense and tension, ^{as does the dialogue.} The ~~non-diegetic~~ ~~man~~ man says "I love the sound of ticking", implying that something significant is going to happen when it reaches zero. The non-diegetic music is parallel to the diegetic sound because it matches the mood, and emphasises the suspense. The dialogue of the man, again, ~~is~~ shows his power over the woman, as she looks helplessly on.

However, the pace of the editing then changes. It becomes faster, ~~after~~ there is a close-up of the woman laughing, suggesting that she is not as worried or helpless as first thought. She describes past events, while there are continuous flashbacks being

shown to illustrate her story. It is clear that these are flashbacks because each time there is a different scene from the woman's story, ~~at~~ a bright light flashes and there is a non-diegetic sound representing 'whoosh' sound. As the woman builds confident confidence, her volume increases, as does the pace of the editing. The non-diegetic music complements this as it also increases and fastens. At this stage, the woman seems to be gaining some power over the man and his confidence decreases. During a flashback, there is an extreme ~~close~~ close-up of the ~~doctor~~ Doctor whispering in the woman's ear, suggesting that he is telling her what to do, so may be seen as more dominant.

editing There is then an over-the-shoulder shot of the man watching the clock tick. Eye-line-matching occurs here when the camera zooms into the clock, displaying that there is hardly any time is running out. At first this probably expressed the woman and other characters' time running out, but then the roles seem to be reversed, when where it is now the man who is running out of time. # He

represents men as being arrogant ✓
(because he believes that he is better
than everyone else), but also ignorant
(because he thinks he is in control,
when really he isn't).

Fast pace cuts occur to show all
the characters repeating "Doctor".
There are then mid-shots of
paintings also ~~but~~ saying this,
adding to the indication of
sci-fi drama. The man gets
worried as they are saying
this, because as they do, the
Doctor breaks free from being
a 'goblin'. Special effects are
used to express this, and the
bright light that ~~appears~~
surrounds the Doctor ~~connotes~~
~~his the hope~~ could
connote the hope he brings to
the other characters, and he
may symbolise their 'saviour'.
Here, men are represented in
contrasting ways. The Doctor is
represented as powerful, intelligent,
brave and righteous, while the
other man is represented more
negatively as arrogant, ignorant,
immoral and selfish.

As the Doctor rises, a long shot of the other man also rises, to which suggests that this is a point of view shot from the Doctor. The mise en scène of the man's facial expression (wide eyes) and body gestures (moving backwards) connote his fear and shock. The Doctor moves towards the other man, with the light still surrounding him, and with a 'powerful' effect added to his voice. Wind is created which is expressed through diegetic sound and the mise en scène of props (such as paper) blowing around.

The man tries to fight back, attempting to shoot the Doctor with his 'laser', but the Doctor moves it away from him. There is a close-up of the weapon to connote the man's decreasing power and increasing helplessness. Again, there is a point of view shot from the Doctor, of the other man. The camera doesn't zoom, but moves close to him (representing the Doctor's movements). He screams "no" as the camera

is eventually very close to him and almost on top of him. The implication is that the Doctor may harm or kill him.

At this point, the roles have been reversed. The man started off as powerful and in control, especially of the woman, but then the woman gained confidence and brought back the Doctor who became more powerful than the other man. ~~The represent~~ In this extract, the representation of gender is contrasting, some men being portrayed positively, while others negatively, and the role of the woman changing throughout the extract.

The mode of address used is almost narrative during the flashbacks. While the woman is describing to the man what happened, she is also informing the audience (but not directly). This makes it easier for the audience to follow the story, but also represents the woman as being intelligent and informative.

- [illegible]

Total

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✓

Candidate c

Sound and editing.

Camera Shots, angles, movement and composition

^{Low} High angle on Evil, ^{High} ~~low~~ on Good (sympathy?)

High angle on 'Doctor' over powering after he morphs

Panning across people as she tells story.

Close ups expressions

Editing

Flashbacks

Futuristic space ships

Morphing - alien into Doctor

Disorientated / cold / tired - Girl

Sound

~~Non~~ Non diegetic music - powerful music

Music ~~at~~ getting louder

Mise en Scène

Futuristic setting

Dressed in suit - smart

Prisoner outfit

facial expressions

Girl in red - dangerous?

1. In this extract the representation of gender changes throughout the five minute clip.

The opening shot is of a male character, he is dressed in a ^{black} suit ~~which~~ and is represented with a low angle shot so that he is seen as powerful, it does this because this particular camera angle makes it look as if he is bigger than everyone else. He is made to seem as if he is in charge via the specific dialog.

The second shot of the scene is of a woman character, she is belittled by the ~~same~~ high camera angle and is deceived as a weak character because of this.*

The male character dressed in a suit is standing on a ^{more} raised level than the girl so it seems that he is the ~~one~~ 'evil one'.

* The woman character is again made to look 'unpowerful' as she is wearing a jumpsuit, ~~also~~ which are a common prisoners clothes. She is made out to be a prisoner because of this.

The Doctor is first shown as an 'alien' ~~be~~ locked in a cage and is shown through a high angle to belittle him also, he is also a prisoner.

The woman interrupts the male character whilst he is in a speech to show that she is more powerful than she is being represented, she is making the male character look foolish

✓ whilst she is doing this as you can tell by the close up camera shots to exaggerate their expressions. As the woman starts to talk more, the non-diegetic music aids her as it gets louder and more powerful.

1001 As the woman is proving her point to the man she describes about the past and what she was doing before she was in that position. The audience is helped to view this by the editing technique of flashbacks. In one of these flashbacks it shows the female character struggling to walk through a tough/harsh terrain. This is shown by the slightly slowed editing and her facial expressions and body language. This makes her a strong character with a lot of will and determination. As the female character is explaining the plot to the evil character and the audience the Doctor starts to morph into a more powerful form. The editing techniques used allow the 'alien' form of the Doctor to morph into a strong, powerful character, as the Doctor takes his new form he is no longer shown through a high angle but is now shown in a low angle to show he is now more powerful than the male character in the suit. Also because the female character and the Doctor are working together they both appear as strong more respectable characters and the other man is now the belittled one.

To conclude, the male character started off as superior to the rest of the characters in the room but as the scene went on the female character overpowered him with a little help from the Doctor. As in the end the Good characters beat the Evil ones.

Basic.

Marking Exercise on Sound and Editing

(These scripts were part of the OCR Get Ahead INSET Training sessions in autumn 2009 and used in the context of sound and editing marking exercises)

Page numbers refer to the page numbers on the bottom of the exam scripts.

Candidate A - Sound and Editing

Continuity editing is used to show the different reactions of the people present in the room (top of page 4).

The candidate begins with: "The shot-reverse shot between Martha and the man allows the audience to see the fear on her face and the joy on his by using close-ups. It then jump cuts to the Doctor being placed at a high angle to show his isolation and helplessness as he is caged. This allows the audience to sympathise with him. Furthermore, it is reinforced when the scene jump cuts to Martha to show the concern on her face about him".

Candidate: "Although she (Martha) is placed at a high angle as she speaks, the audience can easily relate to her as she shows more knowledge than the man himself. Her power is also defined when she stands and speaks up to the man. The close up of the ticking stopwatch also conveys to the audience the importance of time in that scene and how she was managing it efficiently".

Comment: this is proficient analysis and argument, relevant to the question set.

The candidate then continues: "The scene suddenly erase (s) the female assumptions made about her and despite being placed as a high angle, she is shown to be smart and firm, which might be represented of women in the modern era"

This argument is continued at the top of page 5, start of the first paragraph:

"Her intelligence is also emphasised when the fade to white editing shows the temporal change as she narrates what she had done in the past. The mise en scène utilises low-key lighting and the cold she was suffering from when she went on the mission. A connotation of that might be that women face a lot of struggle in their lives."

Comment: the candidate has clearly sustained a proficient/ excellent response by reference to and analysis of the representation of gender. In the above passage the candidate has clearly been discriminating with her choice of examples and used a range from the editing, thought about how editing reflects the narrative and linked this to another key concept, mise en scène – this meets level four criteria.

The candidate continues on page 5: “The sound bridging continues to show the loss of power of the man as the door rises. He is framed in a one-shot to show that he is suddenly alone as the scene jump cuts to the other characters in two-shots. His (the master) loss of power is also reinforced by the use of high angle that allows the audience to look down to him. Whilst the caged doctor is suddenly placed in a low angle to show that he has power over him. This might establish the fact that a man who is loved, trusted and respected has more power towards another one who works for his self interest.”

Comment: Again this is analytical and displays a level 4 response –a range of examples have been used throughout the candidate’s response, as has a discussion of a range of gender representations.

Overall this response is a low level four – some improvement is needed in the use of media terminology. It demonstrates how a candidate engages with the concepts of sound and editing.

Candidate B – Sound and Editing

The candidate’s analysis of editing starts at the top of page 5, in reference to cross cutting and in the next paragraph, insert of shots of the clock ticking, the “time is counting down and the diegetic sound creates suspense and tension, as does the dialogue”.

The candidate then argues: The man says “ I love the sound of the ticking”. implying that something significant is about to happen. The script continues, “ the non diegetic music is parallel to the diegetic sound because it matches the mood and emphasises the suspense. The dialogue of the man again shows power over the woman as she looks helplessly on”

Comment: The candidate uses terminology well and has command of this in analysis of this part of the sequence. However, the response could be developed further with reference to more specific examples.

However, we cannot judge this candidate’s response too early:

Comment: The next paragraph at the bottom of page 5, then discusses the pacing of the editing and the centrality and positioning of the female, as narrator to the extract – indeed the candidate recognises, albeit implicitly about the importance of the female gender in the extract.

At the top of page 6, the candidate for about half a page, cleverly incorporates editing and sound in analysis of the representation of gender. This is detailed and thorough analysis of the sequence and **meets level 4 criteria.**

The analysis of the sequence on page 7 represents a sustained and commanding analysis of the extract and exemplifies how a candidate can provide an **integrated** response to the question set. The candidate has also explored a full range of representation of gender in the response.

Overall, this is a **well-balanced analytical and detailed response** to the extract set. It is sustained throughout in analysis of the concept of representation using all four technical aspects of the TV drama.

For AS level Media Studies, this is clearly a sustained argument. It is selective and discriminating in its use of examples, with a confident and highly accurate use of media terminology.

This is a level four response, which displays excellent evaluation, analysis and argument, detailed use of examples and excellent terminology. It is also comparable to candidate A above – though better in terms of clarity of expression and with the use of media terminology.

Candidate C – Sound and Editing

In contrast, the third candidate is basic in addressing the issue of sound and editing. On page 3, sound is addressed almost superficially, from about nine lines up from the bottom of the page. This is perhaps epitomised by the final sentence “As the woman starts to talk more, the non diegetic music aids her and it gets louder and more powerful”.

The candidate comments on editing at the top of page four, when the candidate recognises the editing technique ‘flashbacks’. Here the correct editing is identified but there is a small attempt to link the technique to the analysis of gender.

Again this is exemplified when the candidate argues, “this is shown by the slightly slowed editing and her facial expressions and body language”. Once again the candidate attempts to engage with the issue of editing as a technical feature, but shows **basic knowledge and understanding of concept**. The final comment on editing is a description of editing as ‘morphing’ – not entirely a legitimate editing concept and does make a basic attempt to link it to the concept of representation.

This candidate response shows a **bottom level three** understanding and analysis of the concept of representation used in the extract. However there is imbalance in the coverage of the technical areas – very little, **minimal** on sound and basic analysis of the use of editing.

As a result the candidate received a top-level two mark for the use of examples, and a competent mark for the use of media terminology.