

# New A Level Media Studies

## H140 and H540 replacing 3860 and 7860

Information for OCR centres transferring to **new specifications for first teaching in September 2008**

This document maps the current A Level Media Studies specification to the new specification for first teaching in September 2008. It includes information on the changes, support available and an outline of the new specification. It is intended to help ease the transition for Heads of Department and Teachers involved in the teaching of Media Studies.

**Current specification – mapping the changes**

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**Outline specification for first teaching September 2008**

**page 4**

**QCA have stipulated that:**

- Number of units required to achieve A Level Media Studies is to be reduced from six to four
- Coursework for this specification is 50%
- Stretch and Challenge style questions to be introduced into A2 assessment.



# Mapping the changes to the A Level Media Studies specification for first teaching September 2008

## H140 and H540 replacing 3860 and 7860



Existing specification		Candidates must complete six units				
Current unit title	Unit code	What remains the same?	What is changing?	Why is it changing?	Guidance	
AS	<b>Foundation Production</b>	<b>2730</b> Mandatory 40% (AS)  20% (A Level) Coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The approach and procedure with this coursework paper will remain the same.</li> <li>The following briefs have been retained in this Unit: Print, Film, Audio and Website. Like the old unit, the assessment will be based around planning, construction and evaluation.</li> <li>Candidates will be able to work either in a group or individually.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The brief 'Television' has been removed and the new specification is more specific about the main tasks, but some level of flexibility still remains. This now forms the new Unit 1 and is worth 25% of the overall A level weighting.</li> <li>New unit code G321.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This coursework unit has been retained as centre feedback suggested it was popular with students.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detailed instructions on the presentation of the work will be produced and sample marking criteria will be available for all briefs. Advice on the technological requirements will also be made available.</li> <li>There will be detailed information available on the guidelines for Coursework.</li> </ul>
	<b>Textual Analysis</b>	<b>2731</b> Mandatory 30% (AS)  15% (A Level) 2hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Textual Analysis part of the paper is retained in Unit 2.</li> <li>An unseen moving image extract with one compulsory question on the various technical aspects is retained. The format of the paper, the timings and the note taking procedure remains the same.</li> <li>The style of exam questions will stay the same in the examinable units and detailed Specimen Assessment Materials have been produced for these units.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These two units have been amalgamated into one – this unit is now called Key Media Concepts. The old Section B of Paper 2731- Comparative Textual Study has been removed. The new Section B of Institutions and Audiences will not use a comprehension passage, but will have one compulsory question based upon the case study of a specific media industry from a choice of six offered which are:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Film</li> <li>- Music</li> <li>- Newspapers</li> <li>- Radio</li> <li>- Magazines</li> <li>- Video games</li> </ul> </li> <li>This is the new Unit 2 and is worth 25% of the overall A level weighting.</li> <li>A new radio drama has been added. Centres either choose G322 or G323.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The need to produce only one examinable unit has meant that some aspects of the old 2731 and 2732 had to be removed.</li> <li>The Textual Analysis paper has been retained as centre feedback suggested this was popular with students.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new specification will have detailed Specimen Assessment Materials on the two examinable units.</li> </ul>
	<b>Audiences &amp; Institutions</b>	<b>2731</b> Mandatory 30% (AS)  15% (A Level) 1hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Audiences &amp; Institutions part of the paper is retained in Unit 2</li> <li>This paper remains the same in terms of purpose ie: to assess candidates' media textual analysis skills with reference to Audiences and Institutions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new radio drama has been added. Centres either choose G322 or G323.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Textual Analysis paper has been retained as centre feedback suggested this was popular with students.</li> </ul>	

Existing specification					
Current unit title	Unit code	What remains the same?	What is changing?	Why is it changing?	Guidance
A2 <b>Advanced Production</b>	<b>2733</b> Mandatory 20% (A Level) Coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In terms of this production unit the approach and procedure with the coursework paper will remain the same.</li> <li>The assessment of this is based again on the three categories of planning, construction and evaluation. Candidates will produce all of their findings in electronic format, and can work in groups or individually.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To avoid possible overlaps with AS briefs and to ensure an appropriate level of demand, the prescribed briefs at this level will require the production of three media products, one major piece and two ancillary products. The media offered are:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Video</li> <li>- Print,</li> <li>- Web-based</li> <li>- Audio</li> <li>- Game software. This new Unit 4 is worth 25% of the overall A level weighting.</li> </ul> </li> <li>New unit code G324.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This coursework unit has been retained as centre feedback suggested it was popular with students.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There will be detailed information available on the guidelines for Coursework.</li> </ul>
A2 <b>Critical Research Study</b>	<b>2734</b> Mandatory 15% (A Level) 2hr exam		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Critical Research Paper (2734) has been dropped, following feedback from customers.</li> </ul>		
A2 <b>Media Issues &amp; Debates</b>	<b>2735</b> Mandatory 15% (A Level) 2hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new Unit 4 unit assesses candidates' knowledge and understanding of media concepts, contexts and critical debates. This is a synoptic unit which will hopefully 'stretch and challenge'.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In <b>Section A</b> of this paper candidates answer two compulsory questions which describe, evaluate and link their production work to a theoretical concept. In <b>Section B</b>, 'Contemporary Media Issues', candidates answer one question from a choice of two, from six topic areas of:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contemporary Media Regulation</li> <li>- Global Media</li> <li>- Media and Collective Identity</li> <li>- Media in the Online Age</li> <li>- Post-modern Media</li> <li>- We Media and Democracy.</li> </ul> </li> <li>This is the new Unit 4 which is worth 25% of the overall A level weighting.</li> <li>New unit code G325.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To fit in with QCA guidelines for stretch and challenge the new Unit 4 should be seen as the culmination of the course where candidates can bring all their knowledge together.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extensive materials and training will be available to help centres deliver this new unit.</li> </ul>

# New A Level Media Studies specification for first teaching September 2008

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Candidates must complete four units



	New unit title	New unit code	Benefits to me and my learners	Support
AS	Foundation Portfolio in Media	<b>G321</b> Mandatory 50% (AS) 25% (A Level) Coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Candidates engage with contemporary media technologies. There are no word limits on the production work enabling creativity and flexibility for candidates. All units are compulsory but within the portfolio unit there is a widespread choice of briefs:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Print</li> <li>- Video</li> <li>- Audio</li> <li>- Website</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OCR is currently developing teacher support, programmes of INSET and working closely with publishers to deliver support to accompany the new specification.</li> <li>More information on support will appear after QCA accreditation.</li> </ul>
AS	Key Media Concepts	<b>G322/G323</b> Mandatory 50% (AS) 25% (A Level) 2hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A mixture of theoretical and practical enables centres to choose topics of interest.</li> <li>Textual analysis and a study of audience and institutions are concentrated upon here.</li> </ul>	
A2	Advanced Portfolio in Media	<b>G324</b> Mandatory 25% (A Level) Coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Candidates engage with contemporary media technologies. There are no word limits on the production work enabling creativity and flexibility for candidates. All units are compulsory but within the portfolio unit there is a widespread choice of briefs               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Print</li> <li>- Video</li> <li>- Web based</li> <li>- Audio</li> <li>- Game software</li> </ul> </li> <li>Students are able to work in the <b>same</b> brief as G321.</li> </ul>	
A2	Critical Perspectives in Media	<b>G325</b> Mandatory 25% (A Level) 2hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new Unit 4 is a change from the previous specification. The first part of this paper will ask candidates to evaluate their production work theoretically. In the second part of this unit, Contemporary Media Issues will be examined. Here candidates choose one topic from a choice of six and answer one analytical question on that topic. There is a choice of two questions for each topic.</li> <li>The new Unit 4 concentrates on assessing candidates' knowledge and understanding of media concepts overall and should be seen as the culmination of their study.</li> </ul>	