



GCE AS/A level

1182/01

FILM STUDIES

FM2

British and American Film

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 19 January 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:

- Poster and extract from an article on *Green Zone*
- Poster and extract from an article on *The Hurt Locker*
- Interview: Why Do Iraq War Films Fail at the Box Office?

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

How important is film marketing in attracting an audience? [40]

Or

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

- Box Office Figures for UK-made films in 2009
- Information on US Investment in UK Film Production
- News Article on a UK Studio.

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

What are some of the issues for UK producers and audiences in Hollywood's domination of the UK film industry? [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 far are the characters in the films you have studied for this topic typical of their genre? [40]

Or

4. What have you found to be distinctively 'British' about the genre 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 are the narratives of the films you have studied for this topic affected by the casting of your chosen star? [40]

Or

6. How far does your chosen star represent issues of social class in the films you have studied 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 can it be said that there are particular kinds of storyline that are typical of your chosen production company? Refer to the films you have studied for this topic. [40]

Or

8. How far can it be said that the films of your particular production company use stereotypes to communicate ideas 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 deal with issues of conflict? [40]

Or

10. What are some of the ways in which your chosen films offer insights into the culture of the period you have studied? [40]

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

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

Either

11. “Some of the most interesting ‘Living with Crime’ films are not simply genre films.” How far do you agree with this statement? [40]

Or

12. How far is conflict between individuals and groups an important element 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 far do the narratives of the films you have studied for this topic deal with the difficulties characters have about their identity? [40]

Or

14. How is ‘belonging’ represented in the films you have studied for this topic? [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. Compare the ways in which narrative is used to create dramatic conflict in the American films you have studied for this topic. [40]

Or

16. How far do your chosen American films portray themes and ideas in similar ways? [40]



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RESOURCE MATERIAL FOR USE WITH SECTION A

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Item 2: Poster and extract from an article on *The Hurt Locker*.



The Hurt Locker, a film about members of a bomb-disposal team in Iraq, won the 2010 Oscar as best Film. It also won best Director (Kathryn Bigelow).

However, prior to the award, its worldwide gross was only around £11 million, which is frankly pathetic.

The Hurt Locker opened in Summer 2009 at just 103 UK screens. Compare *Avatar*, which opened at well over 500.

- adapted from an article by Mark Monahan in *The Daily Telegraph*, 23 February 2010

Item 3: Interview – Why Do Iraq Films fail at the Box Office?

Why Do Iraq War Films Fail at the Box Office?

The following is part of an interview between a journalist and a Hollywood radio Talk Show Host, Betty Jo Tucker.

Journalist: Betty Jo, why do movies about the Iraq War or the Global War on Terror do so badly at the box office?

Betty Jo: *Firstly*, most people go to the movies for escapist entertainment, and the Iraq War & Global War on Terror are too serious.
Secondly, because information and visuals about the Iraq War and the War on Terror run almost 24/7 on television news, the Internet and radio, we are less likely to pay money for a film about them.
Thirdly, many of these movies lack dramatic presentation.

Guess that explains why my husband and I chose to see a silly comedy this weekend!

www.themoderatevoice.com

Resource Material: Part B

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

Item 1: Box Office Figures for UK-made films in 2009

British films: why don't we go to see them?

2009/10 has seen a series of UK films that the critics have loved – yet they have bombed at the box-office

There is a massive disconnect between the British film industry and the audiences it is meant to serve. Consider the box office takings in the UK of the five BAFTA* nominees for Outstanding British Film of 2009, including the winner, *Fish Tank*:

| Film | UK Box Office |
|---------------------|---------------|
| <i>In the Loop</i> | £2.2m |
| <i>An Education</i> | £2.2m |
| <i>Nowhere Boy</i> | £1.3m |
| <i>Moon</i> | £1.3m |
| <i>Fish Tank</i> | £0.6m |

This may look alright until you consider that a fairly ordinary Hollywood rom-com, *Valentine's Day*, grossed £3.7m in a single weekend.

*British Academy of Film Television Arts

- adapted article by David Gritten, *The Daily Telegraph*, 19 February 2010

Item 2: Information on US Investment in UK Film production

Investment from US dominates UK Film production

US spending on films produced in the UK is approximately 70% of all money spent on UK film production. This inward investment from the US finances the production of big international hit films such as the **James Bond** and **Harry Potter** series.

In 2009, US studios spent **£753 million** making films that qualify as “British” because of their cultural content. This is the largest investment from overseas for UK-based film production ever recorded.

Big Hollywood productions that shot in the UK in 2009 included:

- Robin Hood* (Universal)
- Gulliver's Travels* (Twentieth Century Fox)
- Clash of the Titans* (Warner Bros)
- Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1* (Warner Bros)

Item 3: News article on a UK Studio

Warner Bros set to give Harry Potter studios a £100m facelift



The Hertfordshire studios used for the Harry Potter films are set to get a £100 million Hollywood-style revamp. Warner Bros has announced plans to buy and transform Leavesden Studios, just north of Watford. The move, a significant investment in British cinema, would make Warner Bros the only major Hollywood production company to have a base in Europe.

Leavesden Studios has been used to film all six of the *Harry Potter* movies so far, as well as other box-office hits such as *The Dark Knight*, *GoldenEye*, *Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace* and Guy Ritchie's *Sherlock Holmes*.

It would be the first time a big Hollywood movie company has made a permanent production base in Europe since MGM bought Elstree Studios, in Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, in the 1940s, before leaving in the 1970s.

- adapted from an article by Alistair Forster, *The Evening Standard*, 15 February 2010