

# L2 Lead Examiner Report 1906

June 2019

L2 Qualification in Creative Digital Media



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# **Grade Boundaries**

#### What is a grade boundary?

A grade boundary is where we set the level of achievement required to obtain a certain grade for the externally assessed unit. We set grade boundaries for each grade, at Distinction, Merit and Pass.

#### Setting grade boundaries

When we set grade boundaries, we look at the performance of every learner who took the external assessment. When we can see the full picture of performance, our experts are then able to decide where best to place the grade boundaries – this means that they decide what the lowest possible mark is for a particular grade.

When our experts set the grade boundaries, they make sure that learners receive grades which reflect their ability. Awarding grade boundaries is conducted to ensure learners achieve the grade they deserve to achieve, irrespective of variation in the external assessment.

#### Variations in external assessments

Each external assessment we set asks different questions and may assess different parts of the unit content outlined in the specification. It would be unfair to learners if we set the same grade boundaries for each assessment, because then it would not take accessibility into account.

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, are on the website via this link: <u>http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx</u>

## Unit 1: Digital Media Sectors and Audiences (21526E)

Grade	L1	Level 2				
Glade	E I	Р	М			
Boundary Mark	14	21	28	36		

# Introduction

This paper was the eleventh version sat by candidates and statistically, candidates seemed to find this version slightly more challenging. Some of the items on the paper have dealt with elements from the unit that learners have found difficult (audience theory, quantitative research). Where high proportions of a paper are concerned with these elements of the specification this can lead to weaker performance of the candidates.

Learners need to be prepared for being able to discern what is being asked by each question and what form the answer should be in. The command verb used indicates the level of complexity of the response required.

The eight-mark questions being reversed with the more accessible item (in terms of learners' response) coming earlier in the paper avoided the double detriment of learners not answering the earlier eight mark item (due to limits in knowledge) and then not answering the second eight mark item due to limits in time.

The best performance came from learners who had both breadth and depth of their understanding of the subject within the unit.

In the long answer questions learners who could give multiple arguments about the subject (or give a creative, structured response in the final question) performed well.

Overall there was evidence of learners having been well taught across the range of unit content, with the extended questions allowing for differentiation across learner abilities.

# Introduction to the Overall Performance of the Unit

There was good distribution of marks across the cohort making the performance on this paper in line with expectations (although this paper did prove to be slightly more difficult for the learners compared with last year). There were a number of questions that discriminated particularly well with the cohort distributed across all mark traits.

Where questions asked learners to provide three examples of something, only the very strongest learners were able to provide three separate and valid examples although a large proportion were able to find one. This type of question performed very well. In many cases learners tended to repeat themselves across answers and this limited their ability to gain marks.

Within the "explain" type questions there are still many learners who appear unable to link a point to its effect (upon the audience or the media company in question).

In this paper the multiple-choice questions (that generally require learners to recall a term from the specification), proved more difficult for the cohort (possibly as the paper moves to cover less well-known elements in the unit). Learners should be encouraged to revise the full specification with glossaries before taking this examination to give themselves the best chance of accumulating marks.

# **Individual Questions**

The following section considers each question on the paper, providing examples of popular learner responses and a brief commentary of why the responses gained the marks they did. This section should be considered with the live external assessment and corresponding mark scheme.

# Q01

This question performed as expected and discriminated well between learners. Most learners were able to gain both marks for this question.

# This response gained two marks

A radio production company broadcasts programmes on its DAB radio station. The radio production company also produces other types of media products that encourage audience interaction.		Allen of the second sec
(a) State <b>two other</b> platforms that the company could use to distribute its	 6	Cardon and Article Millingto Names
radio programmes.	(2)	100 A 660 100 2010 - 100 200 2010 - 100 2010 - 100 2010 - 100 2010 - 100 2010
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	<ul> <li>The radio production company also produces other types of media products that encourage audience interaction.</li> <li>(a) State <b>two other</b> platforms that the company could use to distribute its radio programmes.</li> </ul>	The radio production company also produces other types of media products that encourage audience interaction. (a) State <b>two other</b> platforms that the company could use to distribute its

Mobile Phone is valid as there are a lot of examples of digital radio producers creating mobile apps for their listeners (such as BBC Sounds). A PS4 does offer the ability for users to download apps from the PlayStation store that allow access to digital radio stations (such as TunedIn) so this has to also be valid.

# This response gained one mark

- A radio production company broadcasts programmes on its DAB radio station. The radio production company also produces other types of media products that encourage audience interaction.
  - (a) State **two other** platforms that the company could use to distribute its radio programmes.

5.23 2

(2)

This learner has given two proprietary streaming services. We can only award one mark for the identification of a streaming service.

## Q01b

Nearly half of the cohort failed to achieve any marks for this question. There have been many examples of questions that ask learners to give examples of tasks from a given stage of the media product development process. Surprisingly here many were unable to give any examples of valid post production tasks.

# This response gained two marks

(b) Give two post-production tasks the company will have to do for its radio programmes.

1 photoshop 2 Editing (special effects

This response receives two marks. Photoshop receives no marks as this is not valid within the audio context. Editing is valid so receives one mark. The final part of this answer 'special effects' is contentious (special effects being more linked to video or film) but conceivably effects are added in post to audio products so this is awarded a mark. Where (as here) a learner puts two valid answers on one line and another incorrect response elsewhere, examiners awarded both valid marks.

# This response gained one mark

(b) Give **two** post-production tasks the company will have to do for its radio programmes.

	(=)
1 Editing	
2 promoting the product	

Editing is valid and receives a mark. While promoting a show is something that would take place following production it is not a valid post production task.

(2)

(2)

# Q01c

This multiple choice question proved to be more challenging than expected. Around half of the cohort were able to identify Ofcom as the regulator for radio from the four options given.

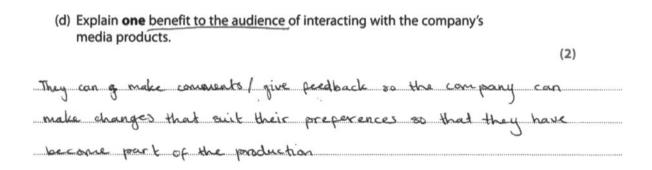
(c) Identify the body that regulates the programmes made by the radio production company.

<ul> <li>B OFCOM</li> <li>C BBFC</li> <li>D IPSO</li> </ul>	A	PEGI
	В	OFCOM
D IPSO	С	BBFC
	D	IPSO

# Q01d

This question differentiated well between the strongest and weakest learners in the cohort. Many learners failed to grasp that they needed to explain a benefit to the audience rather than the producer (and vice versa for Q01e). Also, as the this was a question with 'explain' as the command verb, the two marks are only awarded if the learner gives a valid example that is then linked back to why it is a benefit for the second mark.

# This response gained two marks



This response receives two marks. The first part of the response appears to give a benefit to the producer but where the answer states that the interaction might lead to changes that suit the audience preferences we can award a mark for a valid benefit. The answer then goes on to say that this makes the audience feel part of the production linking this outcome to the initial benefit and so receiving a second mark.

(1)

#### This response gained one mark

(d) Explain **one** benefit to the audience of interacting with the company's media products.

						(2)	
11-	allows	them	to	be	apa	art	**
	the						**
i`t	to be	more	pers	ionalis	5e.		**

The first part of the answer is valid (that the audience becomes part of the production) and receives one mark. The second part (that the audience can personalise the product) does not receive a mark as this is not a valid outcome of the benefit.

#### Q01e

Similar to the question above, this item required learners to explain a benefit to the media producer. Learners tended to find it easier to identify a benefit to the producer (gaining audience share and more revenue) than identifying benefits to the audience and performed better overall in this question compared to the preceding one.

#### This response gained two marks

(e) Explain one benefit for the producer of audience interaction.

(2) a Clear an See anyting better.

This response is a little jumbled but within it there is an answer worth two marks here. The benefit to the producer is identified as 'a clear image of what the audience like' or as we might prefer: 'strong research into the audience preferences.' This is linked to an outcome for the producer (that they are able to use this to improve their product).

#### This response gained one mark

(e) Explain one benefit for the producer of audience interaction.

odurol

This is a good example of a one mark response to an explain question. The learner receives the mark for the outcome from the interaction (that they can make the product more interesting for their audience - 1 mark) but failed to give us an example of what the interaction could be. The learner has inferred that we understand that they mean the audience can give feedback to the producer that would lead to this outcome. When marking these items examiners would score as follows:

Valid benefit = 1 mark

Outcome = 1 mark

Valid benefit linked to an outcome = 2 marks.

## Q02a

This question became challenging for learners as a large proportion of the cohort seemed to be unfamiliar with the term technological convergence. Centres should ensure that the entire unit is delivered to learners as it is all in scope for this examination.

## This response gained 2 marks

- 2 Most modern mobile phones allow users to stream video on demand.
  - (a) Give two other examples of technological convergence.

(2)25 Can access Services loutube mo many different Can MSRO reaming, and Social video

This receives two marks. Both examples are distinct to the example given in the question and separate types of technological convergence. For a response to have

received a mark there needed to be an identified device and an identified function of this device that is possible through technological convergence (that is also not the primary function of that device). For example, taking pictures on a phone is acceptable as photography is not a primary function of the device whereas taking pictures on a camera would be an invalid answer.

# This response gained 1 mark

- 2 Most modern mobile phones allow users to stream video on demand.
  - (a) Give two other examples of technological convergence.

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This response receives a mark for the first response. Using a phone as a digital MP3 player is a form of technological convergence. The second response is a repeat of the example given in the question so does not receive a mark.

.....

# Q02b

This item differentiated well between the different levels of learners in the cohort. Many learners tended to repeat the same point twice and were therefore unable to access all four marks available. Again, there were many examples of answers that did not fully link the identified point to the outcome of the benefit for the producers so these too did not reach maximum marks.

# This response received three marks

(b) Explain **two ways** that audiences using technological convergence can benefit media **producers**.

1 media producers can see how well	
their programs ect react when they	
are live on TV and how # many	
viewers watch on demand.	
2 Gets more audiences and people	
watching their shows because they	
can watch when it suits them	
and where ever they are.	

This answer includes two responses. The first response is only worth one mark. Here, the learner has identified a benefit to the producer of technological convergence (that it allows the producer to track the popularity of their product in fine detail) but does not go onto explain what the outcome of this is for the producer (perhaps it allows them to refine their products based on this data).

The second response contains both parts so receives two marks: the learner identifies the flexibility that technological convergence affords the viewer (for one mark) and also explains that this has a beneficial outcome for the producer in an increased audience (for the second mark).

(4)

#### This response received two marks

(b) Explain **two ways** that audiences using technological convergence can benefit media **producers**.

(4) 1 It makes their product be more audiences and verefie 1t will you programs watch car ONS meir produces Joguar a makes 2 advancements Lechnology Produces made 60 bema and ence it Will (Total for Question 2 = 6 marks) andience uses as the

This response explains a valid benefit to the producer (that advancements such as on demand viewing will increase the popularity of their programme) but really repeats this point so is unable to access further marks.

## Q03a

A surprisingly high proportion of the cohort were unable to identify valid preproduction tasks for a moving image product. The ability to discern activities from the different stages of a media product's development from pre-production, through production, post production and distribution is important for this unit.

#### This response received three marks

- 3 Research is an example of a pre-production activity for moving image products.
  - (a) Give **three other** examples of pre-production activities for moving image products.

(3)Doing multiple stugg over and over again to inbed ingomation or tasks into your Brain. Letting up probs and costumes or idensing lines a scipt. 3 editing the moving image video/Scene

Surprisingly, this answer gets all three marks. The first point is not worth marks but in the third line the learner gives setting up the props (1 mark), the costumes (1 mark), and rehearsing the lines from the script (1 mark) all of which are valid responses. The final point about editing is invalid. This is a good example of a learner putting some of the answers in the wrong place on the paper. Examiners are able to award marks where they find them in these cases.

#### This response received two marks

- 3 Research is an example of a pre-production activity for moving image products.
  - (a) Give three other examples of pre-production activities for moving image products.

1 purchasing the utilities in order to record. 2 Mahing sure you have the cast and the people for these production. 3 Finally, you might need an audience to create a good atmosphere on the Show.

This learner has given two valid examples. The first answer relates to preproduction (purchasing materials etc.) so is valid. The second answer is connected to casting and is also valid. The third is not necessarily associated with pre-

(3)

production in anything other than a pre-recorded sit-com or game show so no marks can be awarded for this.

# Q03b

This question proved to be difficult for much of the cohort of learners taking this paper. Many learners were perhaps unfamiliar with the concept of quantitative research (although this has equal prominence to terms such as 'primary' and 'secondary' in the specification).

# This response gained 2 marks

(b) Give two examples of quantitative research methods that researchers can use. (2)statistics from a survey. Numerical data which is numerical archive

This response gives two valid examples of quantitative data so receives two marks. The answer was awarded two marks. The learner linked the researcher being more likely to get explanations of what their research subjects think (one mark) with this helping them to adapt their product (second mark).

# This response gained 1 mark

(b) Give **two** examples of quantitative research methods that researchers can use.

(2) Grov Questionaric

This learner receives a mark for Questionnaire. Questionnaires can be quantitative, asking for numerical or binary data etc. Focus Groups, by their nature cannot be considered quantitative so this does not receive a mark.

# Q03c

The difficulty that learners had with the previous question had an impact on their ability to successfully answer this one as they both needed an understanding of quantitative research.

#### This response received two marks

(c) Give two benefits of quantitative research.

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This answer gets two marks. Quantitative research is both easily comparable (as it gives us statistics) and can be conducted more quickly than qualitative research.

## This response received one mark

(c) Give two benefits of quantitative research. (2), the information would be more accurate 2 The Manation Would be There would more information OP

This receives one mark for alluding to the fact that quantitative research is generally from a larger pool of respondents in the second part of the answer.

## Q03d

Nearly, half of the cohort failed to pick out Primary as the description for using an interview as a research method. From the performance of the cohort across this series of questions learners should be prepared to discuss a range of different types of research and the advantages and disadvantages of each type before they go into this examination.

(d) A researcher uses an interview to help develop a moving image product.

Identify this type of research.

(1)

(2)

- A Primary
- B Quantitative
- C Invalid
- D Secondary

# Q04a

#### (Total for Question 3 = 8 marks)

Learners found this question less difficult than others pitched at this level. Many learners were able to give two separate and valid stylistic considerations for a news paper website. Here, it was important for learners to concentrate on stylistic considerations and not get drawn in to discussing the content of the website in order to receive full marks.

# This response received two marks

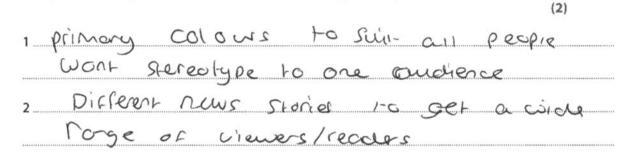
- 4 A news organisation is redesigning its website because it wants to attract a wider audience.
  - (a) Give **two** stylistic considerations about the design and layout of the website.

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This could have received a mark for any of bright colours, fonts or the reference to usability.

#### This response received one mark

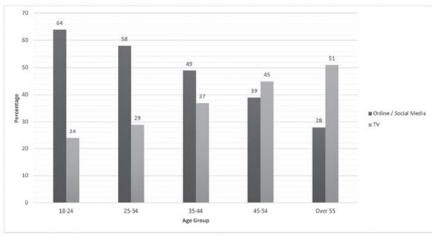
- **4** A news organisation is redesigning its website because it wants to attract a wider audience.
  - (a) Give two stylistic considerations about the design and layout of the website.



The first part of the answer gains a mark for the reference to colours. The second part cannot be given a mark as it refers to content rather than the style of the website.

#### Q04b

This multiple-choice question that required learners to interpret the data from a bar chart was well-answered by the cohort overall with the majority of them able to choose the correct response C.



The following data shows people's preferences for getting news.

#### Main source of news by age group

(Source: Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism – Digital News Report 2017)

(b) Identify which one of these statements is true.

A People aged 18–24 only get news from social media.

(1)

- **B** People aged 45–54 do not use social media for news.
- C people aged 25–34 are more likely to get news from online social media than from TV.
- D More people under the age of 45 prefer TV over online or social media for news.

# Q04c

This was the first eight-mark question on the paper. Learners were given the table showing the number of complaints received and resolved by the PCC (Press Complaints Commission) between 2009 and 2012. Following this the question stem explained that since the Leveson inquiry there had been calls for stricter regulation and then asked to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of stricter regulation of the press.

It was possible to answer this question without a knowledge of the inquiry itself and there were some excellent responses reaching the highest mark band. Learners who tended to do well on this question were able to make links between regulation and the impact upon the industry and audiences. Learners also did well if they were able to consider both sides of the argument.

#### This response received seven marks

(c) Many people are concerned about the way audiences are accessing most of their news through social media. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of accessing news through social media. (8) madern Due ь advances m technology many people accessing are news anline SOUN CRS. instera hom traditional print papers news programmes ar this the advantage is Convenience audience d Many anline sources are easily accessed Kid 2 phone This device. increases mobile Portali As or transport casier ŧo than 2 physical Copy. thermore tur more immediacy as allows audience Car away 98 opposed ŧo straight going ormation in The newspaper buy newspaper physica decline 15 also to the. environment reduces beneficial 25 use and production energy from On the 0 some online Sources May hand news the not V eading ĔΟ Spread misinformation 01 However əlla only Sources the See no 30 Eo many ien ce This Viewpoints different people. bridges 2 ram passi geographica 928 25 25 compatting 2 wel 610 26id traditional Newspapers (MA This 15 mother sountage online Sources,

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This response receives 7 marks and is at the bottom of the top mark band. The answer gives a sophisticated account of some of the advantages of the audience increasingly obtaining news from social media platforms. There is limited evidence of the learner attempting to give disadvantages of social media being the main source of news and the answer is certainly not balanced. There is one attempt to see a disadvantage in social media, making the user more prone to reading news and this being disadvantageous in itself and the answer does say that news from this source may be less reliable. For this answer to receive the full 8 marks, there would need to be further argument about the concerns of social media being the main source of news.

#### This response received four marks

(c) Many people are concerned about the way audiences are accessing most of their news through social media.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of accessing news through social media.

(8)

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22

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This answer only gives a small number of valid points although there are both advantages and disadvantages given in the response. The point that the more important news might be obscured by social media is less about the use of social media as a news platform and more about social media itself. There is enough content here, however, to move the answer out of the bottom mark band.

## Q05a

Many learners were unable access the mark available for this question which required them to give a response of "uses and gratifications theory" or "active audience." These terms are in the specification and should be taught to learners.

## This response received one mark

- 5 A video channel attracts an audience who <u>choose</u> to watch because they <u>identify</u> with the host and feel a <u>sense of belonging</u>.
  - (a) State the audience theory this is an example of.

(1)

Crappi aution.

The learner has not given the full name of the theory (missing out on the words 'Uses and') but obviously knows the theory so can receive a mark.

# This response received no marks

- **5** A video channel attracts an audience who choose to watch because they identify with the host and feel a sense of belonging.
  - (a) State the audience theory this is an example of.

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	enne chian		Parn	oney,

This learner clearly understands the theory but the question has asked them to state (or name) the theory so this cannot receive a mark.

# Q05b

This question discriminated very well between learners who were able to give three separate lighting setups and those who could only name one or two.

# This response received two marks

The programme often uses high-key lighting setups to create bright lighting effects.

(b) Give three other types of lighting.

(3) 1 low-key lighting, used either in a dark setting to evoke a dark tone or mood. 2 No lighting setups, used when the lighting is arready too bright. 3 Toned, normal lighting, used to create & a regular scene such as in a house.

This receives two marks. The first response 'low key' is valid and receives a mark. The next section describes the use of natural lighting which can receive a mark. The final answer does not describe any technique (and may be the same as answer 2) so this does not receive a mark.

# This response received one mark

The programme often uses high-key lighting setups to create bright lighting effects.

(b) Give three other types of lighting.

(3) \* 2 - bright lighting 3 - outside tighting.

This answer gives dark and bright lighting, neither of which deserve a mark as they do not describe a lighting technique. Outside lighting is valid as this may be identifying the technique of using light sources from outside of a building (such as a window being used to light a scene in a room) so this receives a mark.

# Q06a

Learners should be well-prepared for this type of question where they are asked to explain how stylistic codes create meaning for the audience from a given poster. In this example the learners are given one stylistic code (that the poster is in black and white or desaturated) and are asked to give two others. Many learners get distracted by the content of the poster (social media addresses, for example) rather than giving stylistic codes. Other learners were not able to fully explain how the codes given had created meaning. Overall and somewhat surprisingly, learners did less well on this question to similar examples from previous series.

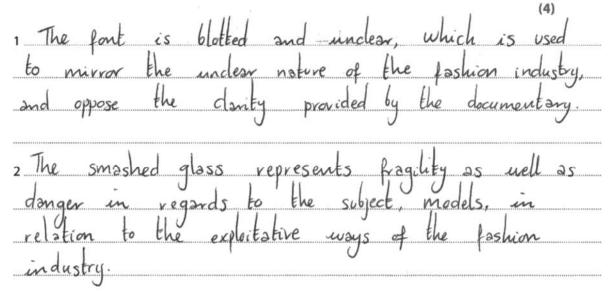
6 The following poster has been produced to promote a new documentary about exploitation in the fashion industry.



# This response received four marks

(a) The poster has been made in black and white.

Explain **two other** stylistic features that have been used to create meaning for the audience.



This response receives all four marks. The first part of the answer identifies the blotted typewriter font (for one mark) and links this with the unclear nature of some of the subject matter (second mark). The second point links the shattered glass effect (third mark) with the fragility of the fashion industry (for the fourth mark).

#### This response received one mark

(a) The poster has been made in black and white.

Explain **two other** stylistic features that have been used to create meaning for the audience.

(4)pe diffent The 20 mates (oat pest drimatic. show (intregie they used 31:11 a mage to 2 ..... FR pre poster. more peopl EL.

This answer receives one mark. The learner has identified that different fonts are used (for the mark) but does not specifically or fully explain how this creates meaning. The second part of the answer does not give a stylistic code (all posters have still images unless they are videos) so this does not receive a mark.

#### Q06b

In this the final question in the paper and second eight-mark item, learners were required discuss the issues of representation that the producers of the fashion documentary would have to consider. Learners did well if they were able to give specific examples of issues that the producers would have to face. The best responses gave a number of considerations and linked them to the impact on the audience.

#### This response received eight marks

(b) The documentary is going to be about the exploitation of young models in the fashion industry.

Discuss the issues of representation that the producers will need to consider when making this programme.

could LASL use However represent mode Ivorded he young emale resu those Urino ategory negative Eypiner reason veo no unreal SELC Stand and more Many Judience ma 10 10 relate

(8)

themselves represented in the documentary. Therefore, it is important to partray many types of people in order to envoke empstly from the Judience. By creating emotion films the Judience, the documentary Johieres its purpose and becomes more successful, so representation is ancial Furthermore, if the documentary were to focus on those who fit the pre-existing 'model' stereotype, it would only cement this image into the audience's mind, despite the inaccuracy of it. On the otherhand, it could be said that the majority of models are slin white females. If so, the documentary may be unrealistic if diverse people are included purely for representation. However, in the modern day, a wide variety of people are inclued in the modelling business, and so it would still be accurate to include them in the documentary. Overall, using stereotypes would damage the documentary's created creditility and as it shows a bias towards one area of an industry full of diversity. Therefore, the documentary should aim to include as many different types of people as is realistic in order to represent not only the fashion industry, but also the audience.

This is a sophisticated answer and this has reached the top mark band. The learner has given a considered argument about how the models in the documentary should be represented and linked this to societal ideals and archetypes. There are other issues of representation that could have been cited but this response is articulate and sophisticated enough to receive full marks.

#### This response received five marks

(b) The documentary is going to be about the exploitation of young models in the fashion industry.

Discuss the issues of representation that the producers will need to consider when making this programme.

(8) representation Issues CF Reputotion Sterootypes Prosent rodeling arched and a cos producers need to consider how they the documency as of the madels regreserations OC representation could be the models get a surrecture on issues that 12 when could give ond

a bad nome for irself. This could mean that people would slate models and make alot of people have then It could make less People view illnings in the future which gives regarive affects our road. another issue of representation would be that you he producer Elder not was to give some moders a certain reputation of them being stack up the May to love themselves alor. This could give Regarive affects on the models and then the company asi well. onother also an issue of representation Mar the producer needs to think about is that they need to have nerke viewers warching Feel insecure about Ameneous especially renater This can a lead to a huge regarive effect On young cenales is my think someone scolor

This response reaches the middle of the second mark band. The learner has discussed the responsibility of the producers around generating or perpetuating stereotypes. They have also considered the effect upon the audience.

better then then

# Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, learners should:

- Revise using the terminology in the unit specification and create a glossary so that they understand each element. All parts of the specification are in scope for this examination
- Differentiate between style and content of media products
- Use appropriate technical language throughout their responses, i.e. Use the correct names such as lighting techniques, high key lighting, silhouette, shot types and angles etc.
- Tailor their response based on the command word in the question, e.g. explain will require an expansion of a point, discuss requires looking at both possible points/arguments, evaluation will require some form of conclusion.
- Use the number of marks awarded as a guide to the depth of response required.
- Know the different theories be able to apply them in different contexts
- Have a clear understanding of the different stages of product development as set out in the unit specification
- Have a clear understanding about the difference between media products, devices, formats and platforms as set out in the unit specification







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