

AQA GCSE Media Studies (4810)

Unit 1 External Assessment Guidance 2011

External Assessment topic Summer 2011: Action Adventure Films

Action Adventure films have sustained popularity with audiences over the years. Although there is often a degree of overlap with other film genres, it is possible to identify key generic conventions which characterise Action Adventure.

- The **narrative** is central to defining the Action Adventure genre. It is filled with excitement and danger, building up to a dramatic ending. It generally involves a conflict between good and evil with the former always triumphing in the end.
- At the centre of this narrative is a **heroic and resourceful character** (usually male) that has **some sort of mission/task to accomplish**. Naturally, the hero always overcomes all kinds of perils and wins against the odds.
- The **narrative involves tense and exciting scenes** which often involve spectacular action sequences such as chase scenes, fights, battles, explosions, rescues etc.
- **Settings tend to be exotic or on a grand scale**. Examples may include deserts, mountain ranges, underwater locations, oceans and tropical islands, glamorous cities.

It is recognised that other genres such as the Disaster, Science Fiction, or Horror may contain action sequences and/or narrative conflicts between good and evil, however these do not count for our purposes as Action Adventure. The popularity of Action Adventure means that it is impossible to list all films which fall under this genre, however, the following list provides some examples:

- *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves* 1991
- *The Mask of Zorro* 1998
- *Pirates of the Caribbean* 2003
- *Into the Wild* 2007
- *Romancing the Stone* 1984
- *Raiders of the Lost Ark* 1981
- *The River Wild (has a strong female lead)* 1994

The above is neither a prescriptive or restrictive list and centres are free to make their own selections. Providing students with a wide range of examples is advisable and centres should also be mindful of film audience classification when selecting their examples to study.

In terms of submission of work for Unit 2 no coursework assignment may be submitted for May 2010 on Action Adventure Film. Controlled Assessment may be completed on other film genres and the centre's coursework adviser should be consulted if further clarification is required.