

GCSE Media Studies (J526) Frequently Asked Questions (Updated January 2011)

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RECOGNISING ACHIEVEMENT

Even though the following FAQ is as comprehensive as possible please refer to the specification on all occasions for any final clarifications

Essential Reading

[The OCR GCSE Media Studies Specification](#)

[The OCR GCSE Media Studies Examiners' report – June 2010](#)

[The OCR GCSE Media Studies Teachers' Handbook](#)

[The OCR GCSE Media Studies Controlled Assessment Guide](#)

[OCR Media Studies for GCSE](#)

[Eileen Lewis, Michael Rodgers, Rebecca Morris, James Goddard, Hodder Education, ISBN 978-0-340-98341-6](#)

[The Media Teacher's Book](#)

[Julian McDougall and Nick Potamitis, Hodder Education, ISBN 978-1-444-11556-7](#)

[The OCR GCSE Media Studies homepage](#)

General Questions

How many media areas do candidates have to study across the whole specification?

Candidates must demonstrate knowledge and understanding of **a minimum of three different media**, including **one print** and **one audio-visual** based medium across the specification.

What does OCR count as different media?

For assessment purposes the following would all be counted as distinct media:

- Film
- TV
- Music Video
- Print (Magazines, newspapers and print posters all fall under the heading of print)
- Web/Online
- Audio (e.g. Radio)

Unit B321 Individual Media Studies Portfolio (Controlled Assessment - 30%)

What is required in the portfolio:

- An analytical assignment (60 marks)
- A production exercise (40 marks)
- An evaluative commentary (20 marks)

Each portfolio must be based around **one** of the ten topic areas in the specification. **Two different media** must be covered in the portfolio.

Formats for the portfolio:

• How can the assignments be presented?

- Word processed (this can include screen grabs and annotations) (800-1500 words)
- PowerPoint (10 – 15 slides)
- Audio or video Podcast (around 5 minutes recording time)

• What formats can the portfolio work be submitted in?

Portfolios can be submitted as:

• Printed hardcopy

Portfolios can be supplied in hardcopy if there are no electronic hyperlinks or video. If there are any links or video then the work needs to be submitted in one of the electronic formats detailed below so the moderators can access and view the links/video etc

• Documents

Adobe PDF documents (preferred option)
MS Word files (.doc not .docx)

• Images

JPG – JPG files can be used for any images
Adobe PDF

• Audio

Audio should be playable on a domestic CD player or made available in mp3 format

• Video

Video should be playable on a domestic DVD player or if supplied on a CD/DVD-Rom it should be in a standard video file such as *.mpg or *.mov.

• PowerPoints are best submitted as self running PowerPoint shows .pps.

• Websites should be saved to CD-Rom or DVD-Rom and all the links checked on the CD/DVD copy before dispatching to the moderator. The home page should be easily identifiable for the moderator.

Any software in formats other than those listed above or on pages 62, 63 of the [specification](#) needs to be converted before it is sent to a moderator.

For example, any Microsoft Publisher document should be converted to an Adobe PDF document before it is submitted to the moderator.

Digital files submitted to the moderator should be saved on a CD-Rom or DVD-Rom. Memory sticks are not acceptable and work submitted on memory sticks will not be moderated.

One CD-Rom or DVD-Rom per centre should suffice.

Work on the CD or DVD should be saved so that candidates can be clearly identified e.g. a folder for each candidate on the CD or DVD with their full name and candidate number.

General Questions

Can I use a task from the old 1918 specification for B321?

Some tasks from the 1918 specification can be adapted for the new specification, see the [June 2010 examiner's report](#) for details on which tasks could be adapted.

Can teachers change/amend topics or tasks for Unit B321?

In Unit B321 the title used must be one of the ten listed in the specification. These cannot be amended. The tasks and texts listed under the topic titles are exemplar tasks and texts and these can be amended by the centre to suit their resources/needs.

Can blogging be used?

No, blogging isn't one of the accepted formats for presentation of work at GCSE.

How should the portfolio be presented?

Work on the CD or DVD should be saved so that candidates can be clearly identified e.g. a folder for each candidate on the CD or DVD with their full name and candidate number. Within the candidate folder should be subsequent folders for their assignment, production exercise and evaluation.

If submitted as hard copy the work should be clearly labelled and split into sections for assignment, production exercise and evaluation.

Any extra research and planning evidence that helped inform your assessment decisions should also be submitted to the moderator in an appendix.

Annotations

As explained in the [June 2010 examiner's report](#) for this specification centres that fail to annotate candidates' work or fill in the Teacher summative comment on the controlled assessment cover sheets risk disadvantaging their candidates, as the absence of annotation or comment make it more difficult for moderators to see how marks had been arrived at and to agree with the centre's assessment.

Does it matter what Certificate any films used within the course may have?

Answer taken from our [Controlled Assessment Guide](#) (p26).

In theory certification within a school context does not apply, since it is not technically a public exhibition, BUT in the present climate of protection for "children" (anyone up to the age of 18), it would be unwise to ignore the expectations and wishes of parents, senior staff, governors, Ofsted inspectors etc. The simplest route to take is to insist that all material has a maximum Certificate of 15; it is always possible to interpret the 'rule' later if, for instance, someone wanted to look at the opening scenes from The Godfather. It is always best practice to keep parents informed and seek parental consent if there is any potential controversy.

Assignment Questions

Film genre – can students study action adventure and choose the action adventure option for the textual analysis exam?

There is no restriction in the specification stopping centres from studying the action adventure genre for the assignment and taking the action adventure film option for the textual analysis examination. However, centres should consider that this will lead to their students having a narrower range of study and experiences on their GCSE Media Studies course.

Film Genre – can the two texts be from different genres?

Yes

How many texts do our student's need to study?

Students need to study a minimum of two contrasting texts

What areas of representation can be studied?

Areas of representation could include ([see page 10 of specification](#)):

- Gender
- Age
- Ethnicity
- Sexuality
- Class and status
- Regional or national identity
- Physical ability/disability.

Advertising topic – can the representation being studied be a representation of a product over time and not a person or group of people?

Some series of adverts feature no people and just the product, graphics and soundtrack, however, at GCSE level, candidates will probably find it easier to analyse different representations of people, groups etc in adverts rather than the product itself.

If producing a written assignment does the assignment need to be hand written or does it need to be word processed?

Word processed and either supplied as hard copy or saved in one of the formats indicated earlier.

Can students look at more than one representation in their assignment?

Students can write about two areas of representation in their assignment instead of one (as long as it still under one topic area e.g. film genre). However, Centres need to make sure that their students don't fall into the trap of generalising too much if following this approach.

Production Exercise Questions

Can found images be used in the individual portfolio?

See the [June 2010 examiner's report](#). Production exercises that use original photography are likely to be more lively and creative. Although it is not stated in the specification that original photography must be used, candidates who do employ it will be better placed to attain the Level 4 criteria of '*a sense of creativity and stimulation employed in targeting a specific audience*'.

Does the production exercise have to be based around the representation examined in the assignment?

Whilst in most cases Centres will set production exercises on the same area of Representation that candidates have studied for the comparative assignment, other appropriate areas of Representation can be explored in the production exercise.

What media is a storyboard counted as?

If it is a storyboard for a TV documentary then it is TV. If it is a storyboard for the introduction to a film then it is film.

What kind of evidence of audience research is needed for the Production Exercise (B321)?

For Unit B321 all we'd expect to see submitted is the analytical assignment, the actual production exercise and the planning and evaluative commentary (with any extra research and planning in an appendix). For example, if the production exercise had been a CD cover we'd expect the candidate in their commentary to cover audience by explaining who they were targeting and how the cover appealed to this audience (perhaps with comparison to some real media texts they'd looked at) and how they had made decisions about their cover with their audience in mind. An appendix can include any other audience research they've completed e.g. feedback on draft covers, rejected designs, primary or secondary audience research etc.

Planning and Evaluative Commentary Questions

Is the evaluative commentary for the whole portfolio or just the production exercise?

The evaluative commentary is an evaluation of the production exercise.

Can centres submit a video of candidates presenting their PowerPoint?

Yes, although this is not required, it is good practice to present on video as it provides extra evidence that backs up your assessment decisions. Let your candidates practice the presentation first before putting them in front of the camera. Also get them to introduce themselves (name and candidate number) so the moderator knows who is talking. If filming a presentation, high quality film isn't necessary for GCSE. A web cam (as long as sound is good enough) would be okay.

Unit B322 Textual Analysis and Media Topic (Moving Image) (Examination 40%)

How long do candidates have to answer the questions? Is viewing time included in the 1 hour 45 minutes total?

The viewing time is included in the 1 hour 45 minute examination time. Students have 1 hour and 15 minutes to answer all the questions once the extracts have finished.

What is the topic for textual analysis?

Action Adventure Films.

What have the exam extracts been so far?

June 2010 exam extract:

The Bourne Identity (Director: Doug Liman, 2002, Universal Studios)

In point: 38 minutes 28 seconds into the DVD version of The Bourne Identity. Jason and Marie are exploring his flat in Paris. 'Any Clues?'

Out point: 42 minutes 59 seconds. An assassin has burst through the window and fights Jason, while Marie looks on frightened. The assassin pulls out a knife. 'Jason!'

January 2010 exam extract:

Serenity (Directed by Joss Whedon, 2005, Universal Studios)

In point: 1 hour 26 min 21 seconds of the DVD version of Serenity.

On the line 'Wash, baby' as a spear/metal rod bursts through the ship's window.

Out point: 1 hour 29 min 31 seconds

Mal (the captain) finds blood and bends down to look.

Specimen Materials Extract:

King Arthur (Directed by Antoine Fuqua, 2004, Touchstone Pictures)

No exact timings but the extract begins at the set-piece battle scene on the ice lake, just before the battle whilst the two sides posture. It then runs through for five minutes until the end of the battle when all the ice has broken and the antagonist looks down and sees his comrades floating under the ice.

Where can I get copies of past papers for mock exams?

You can download all but those from the latest series from the main [OCR GCSE Media Studies website](#) under the past papers tab.

You can download all the most recent past papers from our secure [Interchange website](#). Log onto the site and navigate through the resources tab to find the past papers. If you don't have access to Interchange your exams officer probably does as it is the system they use to make all their entries with OCR and they should be able to get you a login or download the materials for you.

Where can I get hold of copies of the past DVD extracts for mock exams?

Unfortunately you need to buy a copy of the relevant movie on DVD from a DVD store as OCR only have copyright permission to distribute the clips for the examination and cannot re-distribute the clips after this due to copyright restrictions

What kind of preparation tasks should I give my students for section A of the exam?

See the [sample scheme of work](#) and [teachers handbook](#) for more information (these are available on the OCR Website).

What kind of preparation tasks should I give me students for section B of the exam?

See the [sample scheme of work](#) for section B and [teachers handbook](#) for more information (these are available on the OCR Website).

Are there any exemplar answers available from the exam?

Yes exemplar answers from [June 2010](#) with commentaries from the Principal Examiner can be found on the OCR website.

For section B of the exam can our candidates study American comedies?

Yes, candidates can study any comedy so long as it has been broadcast on a British television or radio station (for example on television these include BBC1, BBC2, ITV, C4, C5, Freeview, all channels available on cable and Sky TV and any on-demand channels that are available in UK homes). So for example, comedies broadcast on 'Dave', 'Watch', and 'Comedy Central' and 'E4' are acceptable.

For question 4(a) how can candidates find contrasting examples to compare in terms of scheduling?

One possible method would be to study why a comedy is broadcast at a certain time and day of the week etc on a public service channel e.g. BBC1 or BBC2 and contrast this to a comedy broadcast on a commercial channel.

Can candidates use the same comedies for question 4(a) and 4(b)?

They can, but it may be better to select two different comedies for question 4(b) that have clearly contrasting audience pleasures as this question focuses on audience pleasures and not on scheduling. This way, candidates know which comedies they are using to talk about scheduling and which comedies they are using to talk about audience pleasures. See the [June 2010 examiner's report](#) for more detail.

Unit B323 Textual Analysis and Media Topic (Print) (Examination 40%)

How long do candidates have to answer the questions? Is time to examine the print extract included in the 1 hour 45 minutes?

Time for examining the print extract is included in the 1 hour 45 minute examination time. Students have 1 hour and 15 minutes to answer all the questions once the extract has been examined.

What is the topic for textual analysis?

For print, the topic is lifestyle magazines

What type of magazine do you define as a 'lifestyle' magazine?

A lifestyle magazine may be aimed at any audience but will contain a mix of contents addressing different aspects of the audiences' implied lifestyles.

This means that a fishing magazine, for example, would not count as a lifestyle magazine if it was just about fishing techniques, but it would if it covered a variety of topics (e.g. cooking for fisherfolk, fashion for fisherfolk, how to meet other fisherfolk, funny shaped hooks, fisherfolk going out on the town and so on...).

Where can I get copies of past papers for mock exams?

You can download all but those from the latest series from the main [OCR GCSE Media Studies website](#) under the past papers tab.

You can download all the most recent past papers from our secure [Interchange website](#). Log onto the site and navigate through the resources tab to find the past papers. If you don't have access to Interchange your exams officer probably does as it is the system they use to make all their entries with OCR and they should be able to get you a login or download the materials for you.

Where can I get hold of copies of the print extracts for mock exams?

Unfortunately you may need to buy a back issue of the relevant magazine from the publisher. OCR isn't always able to obtain copyright permissions to re-distribute the magazine extracts via our website or publications after the examination.

What have the exam extracts been so far?

June 2010, Easy Living

(August 2008, Front page, 2 contents pages and editor's letter page.

January 2010: Arena

(August 2008), Front page, contents page and editor's letter page.

Specimen Materials, Red Magazine

(January 2008), Front page, editor's letter page and two contents pages.

What kind of preparation tasks should I give my students for section A of the exam?

See the [sample scheme of work](#) and [teachers handbook](#) for more information (these are available on the OCR Website).

What kind of preparation tasks should I give my students for section B of the exam?

See the [sample scheme of work](#) for section B and [teachers handbook](#) for more information (these are available on the OCR Website).

Are there any exemplar answers available from the exam?

Yes exemplar answers from [June 2010](#) with commentaries from the Principal Examiner can be found on the OCR website.

For section B of the exam can our candidates study American comedies?

Yes, candidates can study any comedy so long as it has been broadcast on a British television or radio station (for example on television these include BBC1, BBC2, ITV, C4, C5, Freeview, all channels available on cable and Sky TV and any on-demand channels that are available in UK homes). So for example, comedies broadcast on 'Dave', 'Watch', and 'Comedy Central' and 'E4' are acceptable.

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One possible method would be to study why a comedy is broadcast at a certain time and day of the week etc on a public service channel e.g. BBC1 or BBC2 and contrast this to a comedy broadcast on a commercial channel.

Can candidates use the same comedies for question 4(a) and 4(b)?

They can, but it may be better to select two different comedies for question 4(b) that have contrasting audience pleasures as this question focuses on audience pleasures and not on scheduling. This way, candidates know which comedies they are using to talk about scheduling and which comedies they are using to talk about audience pleasures. See the [June 2010 examiner's report](#) for more detail.

B324 Production Portfolio in Media Studies (Controlled Assessment - 30%)

What is required in the portfolio:

- The production log (planning and research) (30 marks)
- The production itself (60 marks)
- An evaluation of the portfolio (30 marks)

All of the above must be based around **one** of the twelve briefs in the specification. The briefs in this unit **cannot** be amended by centres.

Formats for the portfolio:

See FAQ for Unit B321 for detail.

General

Can teachers change/amend briefs for Unit B324?

No, in Unit B324 the briefs must be carried out as detailed in the specification.

Can blogging be used?

No, blogging isn't one of the accepted formats for presentation of work at GCSE.

How should the portfolio be presented?

Work on the CD or DVD should be saved so that candidates can be clearly identified e.g. a folder for each candidate on the CD or DVD with their full name and candidate number. Within the candidate folder should be subsequent folders for their production log, production and evaluation.

If submitted as hard copy the work should be clearly labelled and split into sections for production log, production and evaluation.

Any extra research and planning evidence that helped inform your assessment decisions should also be submitted to the moderator in an appendix.

Annotations

As explained in the [June 2010 examiner's report](#) for this specification centres that fail to annotate candidates' work or fill in the Teacher summative comment on the controlled assessment cover sheets risk disadvantaging their candidates, as the absence of annotation or comment make it more difficult for moderators to see how marks had been arrived at and to agree with the centre's assessment.

What resources are needed?

A very thorough resource guide can be found in Section 8 of our [Controlled Assessment Guide](#) (which is available on the OCR website).

Does it matter what Certificate any films used within the course may have?

Answer taken from our [Controlled Assessment Guide](#) (p26):

In theory certification within a school context does not apply, since it is not technically a public exhibition, BUT in the present climate of protection for "children" (anyone up to the age of 18), it would be unwise to ignore the expectations and wishes of parents, senior

staff, governors, Ofsted inspectors etc. The simplest route to take is to insist that all material has a maximum Certificate of 15; it is always possible to interpret the 'rule' later if, for instance, someone wanted to look at the opening scenes from *The Godfather*. It is always best practice to keep parents informed and seek parental consent if there is any potential controversy.

Group Work

Can students work as a group for each element of the portfolio?

No, group work is only permitted on the production itself. Remember even when candidates work in a group you as teachers have to mark them on their individual contribution to the group effort.

What is/Is there a best way to arrange groups in terms of roles?

(see answer to question below)

If undertaking group work can more than one student be responsible for camerawork and/ or editing, as long as it is made clear which section of the film each student filmed/ edited?

Advice taken from the [Controlled Assessment Guide](#) (p6):

If it [the unit] is taken as group work then there is a maximum group size of five, and clear responsibilities / roles for each student involved need to be worked out. This does not mean that each student has to have an exclusive role (eg director, photographer, sub-editor etc) that no-one else does; indeed it would be wise from many points of view if students took on a variety of roles at different times, demonstrating skills as they did so. It does, however, mean that an individual student's contribution has to be clear and recognisable and thereby can be assessed. All students contributing to a piece of work may not always achieve the same mark

What is the maximum group size?

Candidates can work individually or in groups up to a maximum of five people.

Production Log (Planning and Research)

What kind of evidence of audience research is needed for both the Production Exercise (B321) and the Practical Production (B324)?

See the [June 2010 examiner's report](#) for more detail (B324 – Portfolio Evidence section). For Unit B324 the production is much more substantial and we'd expect to see more research and planning than in Unit B321. In terms of audience, we'd expect the candidates to identify who their target audience is and research similar real media texts to what they have in mind so they understand how these attract their audiences (and their codes and conventions).

Candidates could also build up an audience profile for their product or create a fictional ideal target audience member and describe him or her and their likes and dislikes and what they consume which may help them visualise what their target audience want and need.

If candidates carry out any direct audience research results of this could be summarised and the actual questionnaires etc could be placed in an appendix. There is no definitive list

of audience research it will depend upon what project the candidate is undertaking and what audience they have in mind but you as a marker need to be confident that they can show understanding of audience in their research, planning and finished product.

Production

Can students use found material in their Production Portfolio?

The expectation is that the material that makes up the majority of productions will be original candidate work. If candidates are working in groups then every candidate should have original material, for example in print work this would mean each candidate would need original images on each of their double page spread articles. Use of found material will be limited.

Can students use animation/[machinima](#) for video briefs?

Yes, the animated characters or machinima actors are just replacing 'live' actors. If candidates use animation or machinima the evidence needs to be clear in the candidate portfolio that it is original candidate work e.g. thorough planning, shot lists, storyboards, evidence of how the production has been put together e.g. screen grabs, as there is potential for work of this kind to just be 'downloaded'. However, teachers supervising this work wouldn't sign the authentication form if they were unsure of the work's authenticity in anyway and hadn't witnessed the candidate completing parts of the work regularly in their centre.

Do you have any advice/resources on video techniques or photo techniques?

All our '[how to](#)' guides are available on the [OCR website](#) and on the [OCR Youtube channel](#).

Evaluation

Where can I get an idea of what is required for a top level evaluation?

Check the level 4 descriptors in Appendix C of the [specification](#). These show the areas that candidates should be aiming to demonstrate excellence in.

What do candidates need to cover in their evaluation?

Starting points that each evaluation should cover are:

- What candidates were happy with and why
- What candidates were unhappy with and why
- What candidates would change and why, if they could do the project again

The above bullet points need to be read in conjunction with the marking criteria for the evaluation so that the appropriate areas are covered off by each candidate.

As stated in the [June 2010 examiner's report](#) to attain the higher mark levels in the evaluation there is an expectation that candidates will be able to move beyond a 'question and answer' format determined by their Centre, to demonstrate analytical skills and a degree of personal reflection.

Can centres submit a video of candidates presenting their PowerPoint?

Yes, although this is not required, it is good practice to present on video as it provides extra evidence that backs up your assessment decisions. Let your candidates practice the presentation first before putting them in front of the camera. Also get them to introduce themselves (name and candidate number) so the moderator knows who is talking.

If filming a presentation, high quality film isn't necessary for GCSE. A web cam (as long as sound is good enough) would be okay.

Entries/Terminal Rules/Re-Sits

Please see the [specification](#) (section 6) for full details. A summary is below:

- Entries:
 - The examination units (B322/B323) can be entered in January or June each year (but please bear in mind terminal and re-sit rules below).
 - The controlled assessment units (B321 and B324) are only available for entry in the summer series each year. Controlled Assessment marks must be with OCR by 15 May.
 - Examination Units B322 and B323 are weighted at 40%
Controlled Assessment Units B321 and B324 are weighted at 30% each.
- Terminal Rule:
 - A minimum of 40% of the total assessment for GCSE Media Studies must be entered when candidates are entering for their final series for certification.
- Re-sits
 - Candidates may re-sit each unit once
 - The better result counts towards the final grade; however, if a unit forms part of the terminal requirement then the most recent result counts (see [JCQ Rules for new GCSE Specifications Booklet](#)).
 - The rules for controlled assessment re-sits are outlined in **section 17.2** of the [JCQ Instructions for Carrying Out Controlled Assessment Booklet](#)
Candidates who re-sit a controlled assessment (e.g. in June 2011, having previously submitted work for the unit/component in June 2010) may make another attempt at the task previously submitted, if that task is still appropriate to the year in which the assessment will be submitted. **The work presented for assessment, carried out under informal or formal supervision, must be entirely new.** Candidates must not be allowed to amend the work which was submitted previously. However, candidates may re-use the research carried out previously.

Controlled Conditions

Please see section 5 of the [specification](#) and the [controlled assessment guide](#) for definitive detail. The general guidelines for Media Studies are:

GCSE Media Studies has a medium level of control for completing tasks (**informal supervision**). This essentially means that all work should be carried out in the centre and no assessment work should be carried out at home. Exceptionally for shooting photos or video some work may take place off site if agreed and discussed and planned with the teaching staff. In these cases candidates need to write up their work straight away in the next timetabled classroom session.

Assessment work can be carried out in normal classroom conditions (not strict exam conditions) in a classroom, library or IT room under informal teacher supervision.

Assessment work for each controlled assessment unit should be completed within the time limits set out in the specification.

Teachers can give feedback to candidates on their work but candidates must form their own ideas and express their own opinions when completing assessment work and not be expressing the ideas and thoughts of their teaching staff.

Controlled assessment work must be stored securely in a centre either in hard copy or electronically. When the work is stored and saved candidates should not be able to access other candidates' work.

At the end of the process the teacher needs to be confident that they are able to authenticate their candidates' work and sign an authentication form for each candidate.

Moderation

The following excerpt is taken from the [June 2010 Examiner's Report: Teachers' Tips for 2011](#)

How to Present Controlled Assessment Assignments

- Record the teaching groups on the MS1 forms and ensure the forms are legible
- Ensure that evidence of internal moderation is clear
- Check that all assignments are annotated by the teacher
- Make the details of each assignment clear and give a brief explanation of how the marks were awarded on the Controlled Assessment Cover Sheet
- Ask your candidates to write the title of each production for Unit B324 and the names of all members of their group on the Controlled Assessment Cover Sheet
- Label all DVDs, CDs and websites with the title of the production, your centre's name and number and your candidate/s name/s and number/s
- Place controlled assessment assignments in the correct order using card folders or treasury tags, NOT three-sided plastic wallets
- Include the required research and planning material for both Units B321 and B324 with the controlled assessment tasks
- The portfolio for B321 should be presented in three sections in the following order, with the cover sheet on top: the comparative analytical assignment; the production exercise; the evaluative commentary together with evidence of planning. If presented on disk, again make sure the coversheet is submitted as hard copy and make sure there is a folder for each candidate (labelled with name and candidate number) with everything set out clearly so that the moderator can find what they are looking for quickly.
- The portfolio for B324 should be presented in three sections in the following order, with the cover sheet on top: research and planning (including production log and appendix), main task and then the evaluation. If presented on disk, again make sure the coversheet is submitted as hard copy and make sure there is a folder for each candidate (labelled with name and candidate number) with everything set out clearly so that the moderator can find what they are looking for quickly.
- If group work is presented for Unit B324 then the portfolio needs to consist of individual research and planning (including production log and appendix), group production and an individual evaluation.

Also, if submitting a PowerPoint that includes any embedded video or audio please remember to include the relevant video and audio files on the disk with the PowerPoint so that the presentation plays correctly.

Checking resources before submitting for moderation

When checking any electronic work before submitting for moderation it is worth checking to see if it runs in [Open Office](#). **Open Office** is a free office software suite for PCs and Macs that can be downloaded. If your PowerPoint presentations, images and documents all run and open in Open Office without problems they should all work on our moderators' equipment.

Rules of combination

Candidates must demonstrate knowledge and understanding of **a minimum of three different media**, including **one print** and **one audio-visual**-based medium across the specification.

It is very hard not to meet the rules of combination in the GCSE specification from the way the specification was designed. Examples of meeting the rules for two media in B321 and three media across the whole specification are detailed below:

Example 1

- B321, Film Genre (Romantic comedy, *Bridget Jones* and *Sleepless in Seattle* as texts), Poster for production exercise. [Film and print covered in this unit – 2 media]
- B323 taken as exam [Print and TV comedy covered in the exam]
- B324 Brief 2 an extract from a new magazine [Print]
Media covered across the specification Film, Print and TV.

Example 2

- B321, Documentary (Michael Moore's *Sicko* and Channel 4's *Dispatches* as texts), storyboard for opening sequence of new tv or film documentary on health care. [Media covered TV and Film]
- B322 taken as exam [Film and TV covered in exam]
- B324 Brief 3 a print based advertising campaign

Media covered across the specification TV, Film and Print.