



If you love films, television, newspapers and radio, and want to learn more about how to discuss them and how to make them yourself, then this course is for you.

Candidate overview

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GCSE Media Studies

Is it for me?

If you love films, television, newspapers and radio, and want to learn more about how to discuss them and how to make them yourself, then this course is for you.

If you like the idea of embarking on an exciting career in media - maybe as a journalist on your local paper or on TV or radio - and want to find out more before taking other qualifications, then the GCSE in Media Studies is for you.

How will it benefit me?

It will:

- give you an insight into what 'the media' is all about and increase your enjoyment of media texts (films, TV programmes, magazines etc)
- help you to understand how the media works in society to shape our ideas and beliefs
- give you the skills to analyse media texts so that you can recognise their codes and conventions and appreciate how media producers use those to create meanings or messages for audiences
- enable you to develop practical media production techniques by making your own media product
- give you the opportunity to use ICT
- help you to reflect on how the media has changed over time and appreciate how new technologies are changing the ways in which we consume the media.

How can I progress from GCSE Media Studies?

You can:

- Study media at AS/A Level
- Take other media related qualifications
- Undertake qualifications in other subjects
- Start work at a 'trainee' level.

What will I study?

- Textual Analysis techniques – you'll study either TV situation comedy or music magazines and learn how to deconstruct these to understand the meanings within them
- A cross media topic – either News or Advertising – you'll look at production practices, how audiences are targeted, how people, products and places are represented in the news/adverts and the cultural messages conveyed by those representations – you'll compare older texts with more recent ones and think about how things have changed over time

- The processes and practices of producing media products – you'll have the opportunity to put your learning into practice by planning and making your own media text either on your own or in a group.

How is the GCSE in Media Studies Assessed?

There are two tiers – Foundation and Higher.

Foundation tier assesses grades G to C.

Higher tier assesses grades D to A*.

You will be entered for either the Foundation tier or the Higher tier.

Foundation Tier

Component 1 - Textual Analysis (Moving Image option - TV Situation Comedy)

OR

Component 3 – Textual Analysis (Print option - Music Magazines)

AND

Component 5 – Cross Media Topic (News or Advertising)

AND

Component 7 – Media Portfolio (coursework)

Higher Tier

Component 2 – Textual Analysis (Moving Image option - TV Situation Comedy)

OR

Component 4 – Textual Analysis (Print option – Music Magazines)

AND

Component 6 – Cross Media Topic (News or Advertising)

AND

Component 7 – Media Portfolio (coursework).

Components 1 – 6 are externally assessed by examinations.

Component 7 (coursework) is internally assessed and externally moderated.

50% of your final grade will depend on your performance in the examinations.

50% will depend on your performance in coursework.

Vocational qualifications

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General qualifications

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