

A2 Film Studies Summer Homework



As you now understand, Film Studies is not about watching films but about *analysing* them using concepts and knowledge about the techniques used by film makers.

As with the AS course work there are opportunities this year for both creative and analytical projects. Reading and research are of paramount importance to any A Level and so I recommend you invest in the textbook noted below. Prepare for the A2 course by answering the following:

Film Theory Task

1. Who are Vertov Dziga and Andre Bazin? What were their theories? Put into your own words.
2. What does naturalism mean? As a Film Studies concept
3. What does realism mean? As a Film Studies concept?
4. What are the four major types of film?

Film as Illusion Task

5. What does illusion mean?
6. Films are “images that pose as reality but are, in fact, fictional constructions (even documentaries are in some sense false and unreal)”. In what ways might documentaries be considered to be ‘false and unreal’? Watch a documentary and identify the similarities and differences with fictional filmmaking.

Origins of Cinema

Research the origins of cinema and the development of early cinema technology. Include footage of the earliest film sequences e.g. the Lumiere Brother’s early screening of a train arriving at a station 1895. Answer the following:

7. What are the forms of entertainment that are generally seen as pre-dating and leading towards the cinema experience?
8. When and where did cinema originate?
9. In basic technical terms, how do cameras and projectors work? Can you find a you tube clip?
10. Name filmmakers working around the time of the L brothers who could be seen as contenders to the whole idea of cinema. Which countries did they come from? When were they working? Were the technologies they used similar or different from those used by the L brothers?

See the AS Welcome to Film Studies pack and resources list, plus the Eduqas website & specification has resources listed too. Please purchase a copy of WJEC Eduqas Film Studies for A Level & AS.

