

## Why choose Film Studies?

Film is one of the main cultural innovations of the 20th century and a major art form of the last hundred years. Those who study it characteristically bring with them a high degree of enthusiasm and excitement for what is a powerful and culturally significant medium, inspiring a range of responses from the emotional to the reflective. Film Studies consequently makes an important contribution to the curriculum, offering the opportunity to investigate how film works both as a medium of representation and as an aesthetic medium.

# Coombe Sixth Form Film Studies A Level



## What does studying Film Studies involve?

The A Level in Film Studies has been designed to ignite a passion for film and encourage broader cultural and historical perspectives on this academic area of study.

This course of study encourages learners to watch, engage critically with and explore a wide range of film; to develop and sustain confident, personal responses to film via textual analysis; and to enjoy a variety of critically acclaimed films across the major genres. These include films from different cultural perspectives, films from the Silent Era to the present day, and different forms of film, including documentary, shorts and experimental.

There is a 70/30 balance of theory and practical work across the two year course which means that you will learn about how the film industry operates as well as how texts are constructed by making your own product, all using new media and the latest digital equipment and software. You will research and investigate issues and debates surrounding the role of film in society and analyse texts from a variety of eras and producers. The modules cover key elements of film form, meaning and response and film contexts as well as a selection of specialist areas including film

theory, spectatorship, narrative, ideology, auteurship & critical debates.

## What skills will I develop and where could studying this subject lead?

Due to the informative, practical and analytical nature of the subject you will develop a wide range of highly sought after skills. You will develop the ability to write clearly and succinctly in a detailed and informative manner. Your ability to read and analyse film texts critically will develop, alongside your ability to articulate your thoughts and opinions orally. Through working in groups on practical tasks and presentations your ability to work effectively in a team will develop as will your ICT skills.

Due to the amount of theory that underpins all aspects of film studies, you will become a critical thinker and an independent learner with the ability to manage difficult and often abstract concepts. You will engage in political, sociological and moral debates, forming your own opinions on ideas stemming from the impact of film and the process of global mediation, all informed by academic theory. You will also develop a sophisticated range of industry practical skills such as scripting, storyboarding and producing film products using software such as Premier Pro and After Effects.

## Modules that you will cover:

### Component 1 Varieties of Film & Filmmaking (35%)

Learners will study six feature length films for this component, starting with the exploration of classic Hollywood and then moving onto contemporary American and British film.

*Set Products: Some Like it Hot, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, La La Land, Boyhood, Shaun of the Dead and This is England.*

### Component 2 Global Filmmaking Perspectives (35%)

Learners will study five feature length films for this component to explore global film (both European and non-European), experimental and documentary film as well as silent cinema.

*Set Products: Pan's Labyrinth, City of God, Pulp Fiction, Amy, Buster Keaton's silent movie series.*

### Component 3 – Non-Examined Assessment (30%)

Learners will create an individual production in film by applying their knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework acquired from the course of study. Students can choose from the following two options: A short film (4-5 minutes) or a screenplay (1800 words).

## Entry requirements / prior knowledge:

There is no requirement that you will have taken the subject at GCSE but a strong pass in English or Media is preferred. It would suit those who are first and foremost passionate about film, those who are critical thinkers and those keen to explore new ideas through critical debates. Visually creative and ICT adept students will also find this subject particularly suited to their skills.

## Which other subjects will it combine well with?

Many students studying film are visually creative and therefore combine this subject with other creative options such as Art, Graphics, Photography or Textiles. Film is also closely linked with performing arts subjects like Music and Drama. As a theoretically challenging subject it also complements other analytical courses and being a discipline in the cultural studies field, it is relevant across a wide range of additional subjects such as Sociology, English, Business, Philosophy, ICT and Psychology.