

# A-Level Film Studies

## Year 1 Overview and Flying Start Task

In the first year you will be studying **six** feature-length films to prepare you for **Component 1** (a 2½ hour written exam to be taken at the end of the second year that makes up 35% of your A-Level).

These are:



The exam has three sections each worth 40 marks:

**Section A:** Hollywood 1930-1990 (comparative study)

**Focus Films:** *Vertigo* (Hitchcock, 1958) and *Bonnie and Clyde* (Penn, 1967)

**Section B:** American film since 2005 (two-film study)

**Focus Films:** *La La Land* (Chazelle, 2016) and *Beasts of the Southern Wild* (Zeitlin, 2012)

**Section C:** British film since 1995 (two-film study)

**Focus Films:** *This is England* (Meadows, 2006) and *Trainspotting* (Boyle, 1996)

### The Core Areas of Study

For *all* of these films you will need a good understanding of the core areas which are:

**Area 1.** The key elements of film form: cinematography, mise-en-scène, editing, sound and performance

**Area 2.** Meaning and response: how film functions as both a medium of representation and as an aesthetic medium

**Area 3.** The contexts of film: social, cultural, political, historical and institutional, including production (particularly important for Hollywood 1930-1990)

### The Specialist Areas of Study

Component 1 also assesses the following specialist areas:

**Spectatorship** in American film since 2005

**Narrative** in British film since 1995

**Ideology** in British film since 1995 and American film since 2005

**Auteur Theory** in Hollywood 1930 – 1990

## The Coursework

This will also be completed in year 1

You will be studying the following **seven** short films:

*About a Girl* (Percival, UK, 2001) 09'

*Wasp* (Arnold, UK, 2003) 24'

*Connect* (Abrahams, UK, 2010) 05'

*Curfew* (Christensen, US, 2012) 19'

*The Gunfighter* (Kissack, US, 2014) 09'

*Stutterer* (Cleary, UK, 2015) 12'

*High Maintenance* (Van, Germany, 2006) 09'



You will then use what you have learned from these to help you make a **Short Film** or write a **Screenplay** (1600-1800 words/40 marks) and create a **Storyboard** (40 marks) for a short film and write an **evaluation** (1600-1800 words/20 marks)

There is loads more detail available at

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/film-studies/as-a-level/eduqas-a-level-film-studies-spec-from-2017.pdf>

**Flying Start Task** (to be completed between Sept 1<sup>st</sup> – Sept 16<sup>th</sup> and handed in before your first lesson)

Watch the short film 'Stutterer' online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lu5ytrTOoCI>

Write a paragraph outlining what you think the main message of the film is and what techniques it uses to communicate that message. You may like to include comments on use of music and sound, performance, how the camera is used, colour, costume, setting. (200 words max)

Contact [lw@varndean.ac.uk](mailto:lw@varndean.ac.uk) if you have any questions ☺

### Note:

It is not compulsory to own copies of the films but it would be great if you can.

The official Eduqas textbook is available at [illuminatepublishing.com](http://illuminatepublishing.com) and this too would be a useful purchase.

