

POST 16 SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Name of Subject GCE A-level Media Studies

Which Examination Specification is Studied for this Course? Eduqas A680

Why should I study this course? The media plays an important role in society today. We are surrounded by and constantly bombarded with messages about the world around us: what to think, what to buy and who to like or dislike. The media even attempts to influence democratic processes such as how to vote. Most of our leisure time and money is spent consuming media products. A-level Media Studies offers students the opportunity to critically study a wide range of media forms and set products, as well as learn theoretical approaches to analysing media texts and organisations. In the past we have organised trips to Warner Brothers Studios in London as well as visits to other London destinations such as the British Film Institute.

Who is suitable to study this course? Students with a keen interest in the media and a willingness to learn about new and unfamiliar media forms and products are welcome. Students with excellent written communication skills and technical competency will thrive at this subject. Media Studies is a great partner to many A-level subjects, particularly Photography and ICT because of the Component 3 NEA and English Literature because of the analytical aspect to the exam content in the course. Many of our students continue on to Higher Education by studying related degree courses such as Journalism, Film, Media Communications and Public Relations.

What GCSE Qualifications Support the Study of this Course? There are no prerequisites to study A-level Media Studies, although GCSE Media Studies is beneficial.

What are the Qualification Requirements for this Course? 5 GCSE passes grade 4-9. Pass or better at level 2 BTEC. We would also highly recommend GCSE English Language and English Literature grade 6+

How is the Course Delivered? A level Media Studies is delivered by two teachers with combined experience of over 25 years. Both teachers are A-level exam markers for Eduqas. The course is taught in a computer suite with five hours teaching time per week over a two year course. Homework and research tasks are set regularly using Google Classroom and it is expected that students independently acquire Photoshop skills as part of their research in order to complete Component 3 successfully (Adobe licence provided by the centre).

| Subject Overview | | |
|------------------|--|---|
| Half Term | Year 12 | Year 13 |
| Autumn 1 | Component 1 (Advertising, Music video, Film marketing) | Component 3 (Magazine Print Production & website) |
| Autumn 2 | Component 1 (Videogames, Newspapers, Radio) | Component 1 (Music video, Film marketing, Newspapers) |
| Spring 1 | Component 2 (TV crime drama, Online media) | Component 2 (TV crime drama, Online media) |
| Spring 2 | Component 2 (Magazines) | Component 2 (Magazines) |
| Summer 1 | Exam preparation | Exam preparation |
| Summer 2 | Component 3 (Magazine Print Production & website) | Exam preparation |

How is the Course Assessed?

| Year 12 (trial exams) | Year 13 (terminal exams) | |
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| Component 1 (1h 30) Investigating the Media | Component 1 exam (2h 15) Media Products, Industries & Audiences | 35% |
| Component 2 (2h) Investigating Media Forms & Products | Component 2 exam (2h 30) Media Forms & Products in depth | 35% |
| | Component 3 NEA (magazine print production) | 30% |

What is our Recommended Subject Reading list to Support your Study? - The Eduqas-recommended textbook to accompany your study will be loaned for the duration of the course. A wide and varied media 'diet' is recommended, in particular TV crime drama and online news services such as those provided by the BBC and the set products themselves. The full specification can be found below:

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/umbraco/surface/blobstorage/download?nodeId=12913>

