

Media Studies

MEDIA STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Head of Department: Dr S Ellsmore

Why choose the subject? This course will enable students to develop their enjoyment and knowledge of all media texts including film, music, documentaries, newspapers, magazines, ICT and radio and television broadcasts. Through a variety of approaches, including producing media texts, it will allow students to develop a framework for the critical analysis of the meanings and contexts of all these texts.

Production work is a very important part of the course, encouraging students to put theory into practice by demonstrating knowledge and understanding of technical skills as well as allowing them to fully engage in creative, imaginative and aesthetic activity.

Who is eligible? Students who are interested in learning more about the role that the media play in our lives and willing to engage in critical analysis of all media forms and conventions. You will need to be willing to work in groups and to have an interest in media production.

Please note that at the time of writing (14/10/16), according to the Media Education Association's (MEA) website, none of the draft A level courses for Media Studies has been approved yet: the courses are subject to feedback by Ofqual which may well include amendments. There are details of two specifications below, one of which will be chosen later on in the academic year. If you would like further information on these, please see:

www.eduqas.co.uk/about-us/latest-news/new-gcse-9-1-as-and-a-levels

www.ocr.org.uk/alevelmediastudies

The tabulated information comes from Dr S Connolly from the University of Bedford.

A LEVEL QUALIFICATION

Year 2017/19 Advanced Level Award Examination Board: TBC	OCR A level	Paper 1	Paper 2	NEA
	Topic/Focus	Media Products	Media in a Digital Age	Making Media
	Duration	1 hour 45 minutes (including 10 minutes viewing time)	2 hours	
	Weighting	30%	40%	30%
	Format	Two sections; unseen analysis and theoretical evaluation of production	Three essay style response to questions set in three different sections.	Cross Media Production in response to a brief set by OCR
	Eduqas A level	Paper 1	Paper 2	NEA
	Topic/Focus	Meanings and Representation in the Media	Media Forms and Productions in Depth	Cross Media Production
	Duration	2 hours	3 hours	
	Weighting	30%	40%	30%
	Form	Mixture of stepped and extended questions based on nine examples chosen by the centre	Three, two part questions on six separate set texts	Practical Production in two different media forms

AS LEVEL QUALIFICATION				
Year 2017/18 Advanced Subsidiary Award Examination Board: TBC	OCR AS Level	Paper 1	Paper 2	NEA
	Topic/Focus	Media Today	N/A	Creating Media
	Duration	2 hour (including 125 minutes viewing time)		
	Weighting	70%		30%
	Format	Three sections to exam including one unseen analysis of two different sources.		Students 'practically explore the creation of a TV advert'.
	Eduqas AS level	Paper 1	Paper 2	NEA
	Topic/Focus	Exploring Media Language and Representation	Understanding Media Forms and Products	Creating Media Products
	Duration	1 hour 30 minutes	2 hours	
	Weighting	30%	40%	30%
	Format	Mixture of stepped and extended questions based on six examples chosen by the centre	Three, two part questions on three separate set texts	Practical Production + Research and Planning + Statement of Aims (not assessed separately)

STUDENT VIEW

Media Studies



Media Studies is an excellent subject to study at A level because the skills you learn are unique, yet applicable to everyday life. It's relevant to our day-to-day lives since we are surrounded by media texts, and this A level shows you how to analyse and critique them. Due to the practical elements of the course, we get to produce our own media texts whilst applying theories that we've learnt in order to create meaning in our work. This is especially valuable for students who want to pursue media at university. Even for those who aren't interested in further study of media, this course raises awareness of contemporary issues in the media industry and the ways in which texts are received by audiences.

Georgia Evans, Sophie Cox and Doo Na Rhee