

Independent Scholarship Award: A Level Film Studies

Bronze (Must Be Completed)	Silver	Gold
<p>Learning to analyse films – generating meaning: Film analysis involves looking at the different elements of film and considering how they contribute to the meaning, mood, atmosphere of a scene and encourage audiences to respond in certain ways (and how these different elements work together in a scene).</p> <p>An introduction to the way directors use different film elements can be viewed here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cinematography: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IC8LoU8Dax8&feature=youtu.be • Shot composition: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2AUPvoGwKI&feature=youtu.be • Camera angle: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iP4RZeDd6Z4&feature=youtu.be • Editing: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zoi2nlulQDQ&feature=youtu.be • Sound: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kW9_SyjBM&feature=youtu.be <p>Time to put your learning into practice. Choose a scene from a film that you think will be interesting to analyse. Complete the scene analysis task, and use the scene analysis guidance questions to help you with your analysis.</p> <p>Your task is to work through the 40 Days to Learn Film course constructed by Mark Cousins (a highly respected film critic and academic). This ‘course’ consists of a series of short extracts, with analysis by Mark Cousins showing you how directors carefully choose the different elements of film to create specific meanings and effects. You do not have to complete the course in 40 days as you may want to look at several scenes in a session, rather than just one. Make notes on elements and analyses that you find interesting.</p> <p>The link is: https://vimeo.com/399407221</p>	<p>Broaden your viewing: As film students, it is important that you cultivate an interest in different types of film and broaden your viewing experience. Look online at lists of 100 greatest films (e.g. Sight and Sound, Time Out, The Guardian, or maybe even Empire) and watch at least three of the following: classic Hollywood film, art film, foreign language film/world cinema, independent film, British film, or a classic genre film. Film Four is worth checking for a selection of good films. <i>Watch films that you would not ordinarily watch.</i> Keep a record of the films that you have viewed, and make notes on each film (plot summary, aspects that you found interesting – narrative, performance, cinematography, editing, mise-en-scene, sound).</p>	<p>Making a short film: Try making a short film – only a minute or two. Use your phone. Experiment with shot distance, angle and duration. Experiment with editing and sound. You could try recreating a scene from a film or book, or write a short story of your own based on a simple scenario or idea.</p> <p>In addition, watch Inside Cinema on BBC iPlayer. These are a series of short films (5 minutes or less), each focusing on a particular (and sometimes quite quirky) aspect of film. They are useful for thinking about how to analyse films for meaning. Be prepared to discuss these in class – makes notes on a few of them.</p>