

Eduqas GCSE & GCE Film Studies - Supporting you with Advance Information for the Summer 2022 Exams

AS & A Level

Advance information for AS & AL Film Studies identifies the focus of the assessment for all questions in all examined components. All exam components will go ahead in full.

As stated in the Advance Notice Summary document published on our Eduqas website:

‘A good, broad understanding of all the content of the specification is always the best preparation for success in an examination. Teachers and students should bear in mind that prior learning in a key idea or topic area might provide useful knowledge and understanding and be required for students to be able to answer questions fully.’

This is all the more pertinent in a subject such as film studies because no film studies concept for film can be studied in complete isolation.

As stated in the AS and A level Advance Information:

Students should study the core study areas and designated specialist subject area for all exam components and sections.

Students are still encouraged to study key sequences in relation to the key elements of form and meaning and response for all examined components and sections.

This means that the aim should still be to cover all specification content.

FAQ: So, what use is the advance information if we still have to cover everything?

The advance information is an aid to focus revision.

To understand the advance information, you must refer to the specification and not to any other kind of supporting resource, such as the textbook. The specification is the definitive document.

The advance information identifies areas of content which are suggested as key areas of revision in Specification order. The bullet points list the key concepts that will form the focus of the assessment.

So, for example, if a section lists Representation of Ethnicity & Gender in bullet point one and Auteur in bullet point two, the questions will focus on these areas.

This is the content you should focus your revision on.

As you will be aware from published exemplar material and examiner reports, a Band 5 response on representation for example, will draw upon contexts, film form and key sequences in order to apply knowledge and understanding of elements of film (AO2). Just because these concepts aren't listed, does not mean candidates should not refer to these concepts. It simply means that these are not the focal point of the question.

FAQ: The Advance Information looks like we still need to cover the whole Specification. Is that correct?

As explained, due to the nature of Film Studies, no single concept for film can be studied in isolation and it is advisable to cover the full requirements of the Specification but focus revision on the areas listed. Our approach is consistent with other exam boards offering Film Studies.

FAQ: For A Level Component 1 Section A do I need to teach Representation of Ethnicity AND Gender as listed in the AI?

I cannot answer this question without deviating from the principles exam boards have agreed with Ofqual. However, I would advise centres to look at previous papers and the SAMS for examples of questions on representation.

FAQ: Where the key elements of film form are listed will the questions be about all of the elements?

As stated in the JCQ guidance, the advance information 'should not be at a level that allows questions to be predicted'. This means that when the key elements are listed, the question may focus on one or more of the key elements or the key elements more generally.

FAQ: If the Advance Information doesn't list 'key elements of film form' as a key revision area, should we still study them?

The study of the key elements of film form is essential to meeting the assessment objectives (AO1 and AO2) of the qualification and should be studied for all films. This simply means that the key elements are not a focus of the question.

FAQ: Sometimes the specialist areas are listed, sometimes they aren't. Do we still need to study the specialist study areas if they are not listed?

It is advisable to link the advance information areas listed back to the over-arching specialist area of the section. Where a specialist area is listed, it means this will be the primary focus of a question.

FAQ: AL Film - Ideology is listed under Section B, not Section C – is this correct?

Yes. As stated in the Specification (p.16), critical approaches to ideology may be assessed in Section B or C of the paper in any given series.

FAQ: Sometimes in the Advance Information there are three bullet points or one bullet point but within the exam there are two questions. What does this mean?

Sometimes in the assessments, there is an overlap within the questions or both questions are focused on one topic area. If a candidate revises the concepts listed then they will be in a position to answer any of the questions.

FAQ: AL Film - How should I cover representation of ethnicity if there is an overwhelming majority of white characters within my film?

The Specification (p. 10) states that 'learners must study all of their chosen films in relation to representations of gender, ethnicity or age'. This should be taught regardless of the advance information. Whilst some of the current choices on the Specification might not lend themselves to every group, centres are encouraged to analyse the absence of a representational group and link this to context. For example, all white worlds in films such as *Vertigo*, linked to the social context of the time the film was made or set.

FAQ: If I revise only the concepts listed is that enough?

As stated, in order to meet the assessment objectives of the Specification, candidates must study the concepts in relation to other areas of the course.

GCSE

FAQ: GCSE – There is no Advance Information listed for Component 1 Sections B and C. Does this mean these sections will not appear on the exam?

The exam papers follow the same structure as other years and sections B and C are present in 2022. Advance information for GCSE Film Studies is presented for Component 1 Section A only and all sections of Component 2. Advance information is not provided for Component 1 Sections B and C as candidates already have access to the Film Technology Appendix for Section B and the Specialist Writing for Section C. To provide Advance Information for sections B and C would not be in line with the agreed principles.

A few final thoughts:

1. Refer to the Eduqas specification that can be found on the Eduqas website, www.eduqas.co.uk
2. Look at previous papers for sample questions and how these may be worded. If you would like a resources guide on how to find these, please email film@wjec.co.uk
3. The exam papers will look exactly the same as they always have, with all questions included.
4. And, finally, all the specification content should still be taught.

If you're a teacher and need further support, please do contact our subject team – our contact details can be found on the Eduqas website, www.eduqas.co.uk - we're on hand to help you.

If you're a learner and you're unsure about anything, please do ask your teacher and they'll be able to tell you everything you need to know as you prepare and revise for this summer's exams.