GCSE Film Studies

Worksheet 8: In-depth analysis: aesthetics and spectator response



Worksheet 8

At this stage, you have now started to crystallise your responses to the film studied. The next stage is to consider what triggers these responses – here you will be focussing on aesthetics.

Read the pdfs on aesthetics before attempting this worksheet

Film aesthetics is a big topic – at GCSE level, for this unit, it is best if the study of aesthetics is focussed upon the use of cinematography, mise-en-scene, sound and editing and if the study of these micro-elements is geared to exploring how these help to facilitate responses by spectator's and audiences. This way, it is possible to focus on the aesthetic qualities of the films you study and link to how you and other respond to the films you study.

At the stage where you have some solid ideas about your response to the film – you now need to consider how and why you have responded this way: in doing so, this will enable you to consider your 'appreciation' for the film.

1. Reflect on the overall aesthetic qualities of the film: what sticks out to you about the films as a whole: a particular camera shot or sequence of

	d? The way characters talk and behave? How the characters dress?	Songs or music used?	Note down yo
ideas in the box below:			

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2. Returning back to the film: going back to the three key sequences studied in detail in the previous step, break each key sequence down to focus on two examples from that sequence. These two examples could be short scenes or parts of longer scenes. To enable depth of analysis, the examples chosen should be between 1 – 2 minutes each.

	Aesthetic qualities: Cinematography / Mise-en- scene / Sound / Editing – what examples from some of these can you note down which contribute to your response to the sequence and the film?	Spectator response – how these aesthetic qualities affect what sense you make of this example from the film?
Inciting Incident – Example 1		
Inciting Incident – Example 2		
First Culmination – Example 1		

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First Culmination – Example 2	
Main Culmination – Example 1	
Main Culmination – Example 2	

3. **Summary** – how do the film's aesthetic qualities contribute to your response to the film? You should be able to write at least one substantial paragraph for this task.

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