

# A Level Film Studies

## H410/02 Critical Approaches to Film

### Edusites Sample Question Paper

Time allowed: 2 hours

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Complete the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- Answer **three** questions in total:
- **Section A:** Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.
- **Section B:** Answer **either** Question 3 **or** Question 4.
- **Section C:** Answer **one** question from Questions 5–10.

#### INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **105**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [ ].
- This document consists of **8** pages.
- Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (\*).

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## SECTION A – Contemporary British and US Film

Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2

You should have studied **one** British film and **one** US film from the lists below.

British	US
<b><i>Pride (2014)</i></b> . Directed by Matthew Warchus. Britain, 15	<b><i>Guardians of the Galaxy (2014)</i></b> . Directed by James Gunn. USA, 12
<b><i>Gone Too Far (2013)</i></b> . Directed by Destiny Ekaragha. Britain, 12	<b><i>The Hunger Games (2012)</i></b> . Directed by Gary Ross. USA, 15
<b><i>Ex-Machina (2014)</i></b> . Directed by Alex Garland. Britain, 15	<b><i>Star Wars: The Force Awakens (Abrams 2015)</i></b> . Directed by J.J. Abrams. USA, 12
<b><i>The Angel's Share (2012)</i></b> . Directed by Ken Loach. Britain, 15	<b><i>The Dark Knight Rises (2012)</i></b> . Directed by Christopher Nolan. USA. 12
<b><i>We Need to Talk About Kevin (2011)</i></b> . Directed by Lynne Ramsay. Britain, 15	<b><i>Zootopia (2016)</i></b> . Directed by Rich Moore, Jared Bush, Byron Howard. USA, PG
<b><i>Skyfall (2012)</i></b> , Directed by Sam Mendes. Britain, 12	<b><i>Jurassic World (2015)</i></b> . Directed by Colin Trevorrow. USA, 12

### EITHER

- 1\* To what extent do social and cultural context impact upon your understanding of the **one British** film and **one US** film you have studied?

[35]

### OR

- 2\* To what extent does watching a film at home affect its power to draw you into the world of the film? Discuss in relation to examples from **one British** film and **one US** film you have studied.

[35]

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## SECTION B – Documentary

Answer **either** Question 3 **or** Question 4

You should have studied **one** documentary film from the list below.

- ***The Stories we Tell*** (2013). Directed by Sarah Polley, 12
- ***Searching for Sugarman*** (2012). Directed by Malik Bendjelloul, 12
- ***5 Broken Cameras*** (2011). Directed by Emad Burnat and Guy Davidi, 15
- ***The Act of Killing*** (2012). Directed by Joshua Oppenheimer, 15
- ***Man on Wire*** (2008). Directed by James Marsh, 12
- ***Citizenfour*** (2014). Directed by Laura Poitras, 15

### EITHER

- 3\* 'Documentaries give viewers the complete truth on a subject'. Discuss this claim in relation to examples from the documentary film you have studied.

[35]

### OR

- 4\* To what extent does the documentary film you have studied move away from the narrative conventions of fictional films? Discuss this in relation to examples from the documentary film you have studied.

[35]

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## SECTION C – Ideology

Answer **one** question from Questions 5 - 10

You should have studied films from **one** of the following themes:

- Family and Home
- Outsiders
- Conflict

If you have studied films from the theme **Family and Home**, answer **either** Question 5 **or** Question 6.

If you have studied films from the theme **Outsiders**, answer **either** Question 7 **or** Question 8.

If you have studied films from the theme **Conflict**, answer **either** Question 9 **or** Question 10.

### Theme: Family and Home

Answer **either** Question 5 **or** Question 6

You should have studied **three** films from your chosen theme. One film should be from the **US Independent** list, one film should be from the **Non-US English Language** list and one film should be from the **Non-European Non-English Language** list below.

US Independent	Non-US English Language	Non-European Non-English Language
<i>Moonrise Kingdom</i> (2012). Directed by Wes Anderson. USA, 12	<i>Room</i> (2015). Directed by Lenny Abrahamson. Canadian/Irish, 15	<i>A Separation</i> (2011). Directed by Asghar Farhadi. Iran, PG
<i>The Tree of Life</i> (2011). Directed by Terrance Malick. USA, 12	<i>Animal Kingdom</i> (2010). Directed by David Michod. Australia, 15	<i>Our Little Sister</i> (2015). Directed by Hirokazu Koreeda. Japan, PG

#### EITHER

- 5\* 'Home is the most dangerous and frightening place in the world.' Discuss how far this is true in the films you have studied. You must draw comparisons between the **three** films you have studied in your answer.

[35]

#### OR

- 6\* Compare how the films you have studied use micro-elements of film to generate meaning about what 'family' and 'home' are. You must refer to specific sequences from the films and make comparisons between the **three** films you have studied in your answer.

[35]

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## Theme: Outsiders

Answer **either** Question 7 or Question 8

You should have studied **three** films from your chosen theme. One film should be from the **US Independent** list, one film should be from the **Non-US English Language** list and one film should be from the **Non-European Non-English Language** list below.

US Independent	Non-US English Language	Non-European Non-English Language
<i>A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night</i> (2014). Directed by Ana Lily Amirpour. USA, 15	<i>The Babadook</i> (2014). Directed by Jennifer Kent. Australia, 15	<i>Yojimbo (The Bodyguard)</i> (1961). Directed by Akira Kurosawa, Japan, PG
<i>Elephant</i> (2003). Directed by Gus Van Sant. USA, 15	<i>The Piano</i> (1993). Directed by Jane Campion. New Zealand, 15	<i>Y Tu Mama Tambien</i> (2001). Directed by Alfonso Cuarón. Mexico, 18

### EITHER

**7\*** How are micro-elements of film language used to construct a sense of the main characters 'outsider' status in the films you have studied? You must draw comparisons between the **three** films you have studied in your answer.

[35]

### OR

**8\*** How important is understanding of social, cultural, political or historical contexts to being able to identify who / what the outsiders are and what are these characters outside of? Discuss this in relation to the films you have studied. You must draw comparisons between the **three** films you have studied in your answer.

[35]

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## Theme: Conflict

Answer **either** Question 9 or Question 10

You should have studied **three** films from your chosen theme. One film should be from the **US Independent** list, one film should be from the **Non-US English Language** list and one film should be from the **Non-European Non-English Language** list below.

US Independent	Non-US English Language	Non-European Non-English Language
<i>The Hurt Locker</i> (2008). Directed by Kathryn Bigelow. USA, 15	<i>District 9</i> (2009). Directed by Neil Blomkamp. South Africa 2009, 15	<i>Battle of Algiers</i> (1965). Directed by Gilo Pontecorvo. Algeria, 15
<i>Whiplash</i> (2015). Directed by Damien Chazelle. USA, 15	<i>Mad Max</i> (1979). Directed by George Miller. Australia, 15	<i>The Grandmaster</i> (2013). Directed by Wong Kar-Wai. China, 15

### EITHER

- 9\* 'Storytelling conventions prevent films from being able to give an accurate portrayal of real conflict'. Discuss this in relation to the films you have studied. You must draw comparisons between the **three** films you have studied in your answer.

[35]

### OR

- 10\* How do micro elements of film language work to align the spectator to the films' intended response? You must draw comparisons between the **three** films you have studied in your answer.

[35]

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**

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