

Frequently Asked Questions

A Level Film Studies

Question: What are some of the key topics I would cover?

Answer: We have 11 set film texts which are all used in the examination. They cover a variety of historical and cultural aspects such as: Old and New Hollywood (1927 to 1980); Contemporary Hollywood (2000+); Documentary Films; Experimental Films; Silent Cinema; Short Film; UK Film; and Global Cinema. There is a small practical unit which is largely written with a focus on producing a short screenplay and photographic storyboard.

Question: How many other subjects can I choose alongside this one?

Answer: 3 is the norm.

Question: What is the learning style like within this subject?

Answer: We try to make the subject as active as possible, but it is a subject best seen as 'English Lit with Film', with films instead of books for texts. Therefore, we watch a lot of clips and discuss their meaning and give our interpretations. There is a fairly high degree of teacher led note making and lecturing.

Question: How will I be assessed?

Answer: Two 2-hour 30-minute exams.

Question: What support can I access if I am struggling?

Answer: We will direct you to the usual support channels in the college such as the *Study Support Department*. Specific needs will of course be addressed as and when they arise but there is no workshop time.

Question: Are there any subject specific entry requirements?

Answer: Yes, please refer to the prospectus [here](#) for general and subject specific entry requirements

A 4 in English Language is the only requirement. Please however remember that the exam is solely written, and the coursework is mainly written. Literacy skills and a willingness to engage deeply with essay-based interpretation are all key skills a good Film student needs.

Question: Are there normally any trips that I can go on?

Answer: We offer occasional trips and invite speakers in but nothing is established year on year. In the past we have run cinema screenings, trips to the BFI in London and we have invited speakers in from the BBFC.

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Question: What do students who have studied this area normally do after Collyer's?

Answer: Some combine the course with a BTEC in Media and go into the industry. Some go onto to do screenwriting degrees or even study the academic focus on Film at degree level. Others just celebrate achieving a top grade in a tough and intellectually demanding A-Level. At the end of the day an 'A' in Film is as worthy of note as an 'A' in any other subject and should not inhibit opportunities at university or within the workplace. An 'A' in Film will however not gain you access into the highly competitive Film industry. For a better option of impressing a future Film employer a BTEC in Media is recommended. It is of course possible to do both subjects and for the really focussed student that is a popular and successful option.