

Year 11 – Year 12

A Level Media Studies Reading List

Listed below is a collection of links, multimedia, resources and tasks designed to improve your basic media subject knowledge. Everything here is set against the media framework and the relevant concepts studied over the two year A Level course. Tasks are optional, but may help your understanding.

***All of these resources, and other materials on the course can be found on our department website: <https://bgsmediastudies.weebly.com/11--12.html>**

All hyperlinks below can be accessed holding CTRL and clicking the link.

Terminology: Glossary for Beginners

Define each of these key subject-specific terms that will be used in the introduction unit. Challenge: Find examples to illustrate the term.

Genre, Narrative, Mise-en-scene, Proxemics, Juxtaposition, Rule of thirds, Intertextuality, Diegetic Sound, Non-diegetic Sound, Anchorage, Denotation, Connotation, Ideology, Media Conglomerate, Stereotype, Countertype, Archetype, Target Audience, Niche-Audience, (Media) Regulation

Narrative: Characters

Research Vladimir Propp's '8 Character Functions'. What character types does he identify in his theory? What is their function?

Task: Can you collaborate information in a table, then provide examples from ONE film where each character type is found, explaining how each character fits their function.

Characters: The Protagonist

Watch the video, what makes for a good protagonist (Video refers to as a 'leader', Propp calls them the 'hero')? What are their strengths and weaknesses?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLNNiZjkEmc&list=PLEzQZpmbzckXLwKUP2DXzBSkmFjZe7w9w>

Narrative: Plot Types

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Seven_Basic_Plots

Research Booker's '7 Basic Plots'.

Task: Can you provide your own film or TV show example for each of the 7 plot types?

The Importance of Colour in Storytelling

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IINVnA3rVIE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXgFcNUWqX0>

Challenge: Analyse a scene of your choice. How does colour help tell the story or create atmosphere in the scene?

Representation in Hollywood:

<https://www.thoughtco.com/diversity-in-hollywood-3026690>

Read the article, who are some of the underrepresented groups in Hollywood?

Representation in the Media: Ethnicity & Stereotyping

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zwpq39q/revision/1>

Audience

Why do we choose our media? **Theorists Blumler & Katz** suggest that audiences are active in picking the media they wish to consume. We make decisions about what newspapers to read, films to watch and video games to play based on what they refer to as gratifications.

Task: Research the 4 gratifications Blumler & Katz suggest are offered by the media. What are they? What do they offer? **Challenge: What shows, games, films, social media apps etc fit each of the 4 gratifications? Do any provide more than one gratification?**

Disney - A MAJOR Media Conglomerate!

<https://www.vox.com/culture/2019/3/20/18273477/disney-fox-merger-deal-details-marvel-x-men>

What was the takeover deal worth?

Which company did Disney buy?

<https://www.cartoonbrew.com/disney/chart-every-company-that-disney-owns-172130.html>

Go online and list 10 major companies that Disney owns.

Who Owns the Media?

Nice infographic on who owns the media (USA). Please note this was written BEFORE Disney's purchase of Fox in late 2019.

<https://www.webfx.com/blog/internet/the-6-companies-that-own-almost-all-media-infographic/>

TV Streaming - The Ever-changing Future on Television...

Read the following articles, how is TV changing? What are some of the major companies at the forefront of this change?

<https://time.com/5736490/streaming-wars-disney-plus-apple-tv/>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-11-30/what-the-streaming-wars-mean-for-the-future-of-tv-quicktake>

Media Regulation

Find out which companies regulate the following media industries in the UK:

TV & Radio, Film, Video Games, Advertising, Newspapers.

Hegemony – An essential concept.

An important term/concept often discussed in the subject. Understanding this will help you look at not only how representations are constructed, but WHY.

Task. read the Media Magazine #65 article using the PDF (starts on page 18). Can you summarise in 5 bullet points of your own words?

[OpenDrive>MediaStudies>MM65](#)

Reading List

Media Magazine Archive: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/OB0i5diL3vrEiSGxRNHlyZmM4Ums>

Media Theory for A Level (Mark Dixon)

OCR A Level Media Studies - My revision Notes (Michael Rodgers, Hodder Education)

Film Art; An Introduction (Bordwell & Thompson)

Filmish (Edward Ross)

The Big Issue Magazine

Stranger Things - Season 1 (Netflix)

The Killing - Season 1 Episode 1

The Jungle Book (Disney) 1967

The Jungle Book (Disney) 2016

BBC Radio 1 Breakfast Show (Daily - BBC Radio 1 or BBC iPlayer)

The Story of Minecraft (YouTube)

The Guardian (Newspaper & Online)

The Daily Mail (Newspaper & Online)