

GCSE Media Studies

Exam board AQA 8572

How the course works

Years 9, 10 and 11: CSPs (70%)

Begin with a short 'Introduction to Media' unit.

Study 18 different case studies, alongside theorists and terminology.

Assessments after each case study in the style of exam papers.

Year 11 only: NEA (30%)

Write a statement of intent (300 words).

Complete one piece of practical, working to a brief from AQA.

Exam papers - Year 11 only

Paper 1

Section A: Media Language and Representations.

Examined on magazines, advertising/marketing, newspapers, online/social media, video games.

Section B: Industries and Audiences.

Examined on: radio, music videos, newspapers, online/social media, video games, film.

Paper 2

Section A: response to an extract from one of the CSPs.

Section B: examined on newspapers or online/social media and video games.

Both papers:

- 84 marks
- 1.5 hours
- 35% of GCSE

To be clear...

Media is not:

- watching films
- playing video games
- making music videos

Media is:

- an essay-based subject
- an academic subject
- a challenging subject

How can we extend learning?

We offer:

Film club: students watch a variety of genres and review the films in the school's newsletter.

Viewing club: students watch set texts in TV and Film, deepening their understanding of the CSP.

What you can do:

- We recommend that students purchase their own copy of the textbook so that they can make annotations in it - a letter will be sent home about this in the Summer term.
- Encourage students to engage with as wide a variety of media texts as possible - including different genres and platforms. Exposure to these makes it much easier for them to engage with the contextual references as we progress through the course.