Year 8 Options 2020

GCSE Media Studies

Examination Board: AQA. Course Specification: 8572

What is GCSE Media Studies all about?
GCSE Media Studies will develop your media 'reading' and analysis skills as well as developing your practical media production skills. You will study a variety of texts across a variety of platforms including film, television, newspapers, advertising, music videos, video games and social media sites.

Course Structure:
You will have 5 lessons of Media Studies over a two week cycle.
You will study a wide range of texts in depth as specified by the exam board. Past examples include 'Lara Croft Go' video game, 'Class' TV series, Doctor Who, Zoella (online vlogger and blogger), The Daily Mirror, 'Galaxy' TV advert, print advertisements from the 1950s, 'Dr Strange' film, Arctic Monkeys' music video

How will I be assessed?
There are two written examinations for Media Studies worth a combined 70% of the GCSE. There is also a coursework element which is worth 30% of the GCSE overall. There are no tiers of entry for this subject. At the end of the three year course, candidates will be awarded a grade from 1 to 9. Grade 9 is highest grade. Candidates will sit both of the examinations in the summer of Year 11.

Paper 1 - 1 hour 30 min exam. 84 marks. 35% of GCSE.
Section A will focus on Media Language and Media Representations. Questions in this section can test any two of the following forms: magazines, advertising and marketing, newspapers, online, social and participatory media and video games.
Section B will focus on Media Industries and Media Audiences. Questions in this section can test any two of the following forms: radio, music video, newspapers, online, social and participatory media and video games, film (industries only).
Questions
• A range of questions relating to an unseen source and Close Study Products.
• An extended response question (20 marks).

Paper 2 - 1 hour 30 min exam. 84 marks. 35% of GCSE.
Section A will be based on a screening from an extract of one of the television Close Study Products and can test any area of the theoretical framework.
Section B will be based on either newspapers or online, social and participatory media and video games and can test any area of the framework.
Questions
• Short, medium and extended response questions assessing depth of knowledge and understanding of the course.

Non-exam Assessment (coursework) Creating a Media Product 60 marks. 30% of GCSE.
• Application of knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework.
• Ability to create media products.
Students produce:
• a statement of intent
• a media product for an intended audience following a set brief.

What could I do next with GCSE Media Studies?
This GCSE will open the door to a wide variety of sixth form or college courses. In the sixth form at Sandbach School we offer A Level Media Studies and the Level 3 diploma Creative Media that this course will prepare you for. It is a great choice for people considering a career in the media, advertising and marketing.