

A Level Media Studies



We encounter the media every single day. A Level Media Studies allows us to critically explore this vital area of contemporary life. Media Studies is an established academic discipline, which is growing in both schools and universities. At Wath, we offer the popular WJEC Eduqas specification.

Resources

Hardware Includes

- Media Studies ICT suite
- Cameras and tripods
- Lights, stands and reflectors
- Microphones
- Headphones
- Green screen equipment

Software Includes

- Adobe Premiere Pro (video editing)
- Adobe InDesign (desktop publishing)
- Adobe Photoshop (photo/image editing)
- Adobe Illustrator (graphics editing)
- Adobe Audition (sound editing)

Other Resources Include

- Endorsed textbooks
- Other academic books
- Print/online subscription to MediaMagazine



Assessment

Component 1

Exam (2¼ hours; 35%)

- Analysis of unseen material
- Representations in the media
- Media industries
- Audiences

Component 2

Exam (2½ hours; 35%)

- Detailed analysis of two TV programmes
- Detailed analysis of two magazines
- Detailed analysis of online media

Component 3

NEA (30%)

- Creation of two linked media products
- Statement of aims and intentions

Questions & Answers

Q: What is Media Studies?

A: It is the academic exploration of all aspects of the media. You engage with a range of media forms, focusing on how media products create meaning, how they represent the world around us, how audiences respond to them and the industry behind the media. The subject includes both analysing existing media products and creating your own.

Q: What types of media will I study?

A: The media forms studied are television, film, music videos, newspapers, magazines, radio, videogames, online media and advertising/marketing.

Q: I have not taken Media Studies before. Can I still do the A Level?

A: Absolutely. No previous qualifications in Media Studies are required, though you must have an interest in the area.

Q: Is this an academic course?

A: Yes (and you will therefore need a Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and/or GCSE English Literature). There is, however, a practical element too.

Q: What sort of skills do I need to take the course?

A: The main skill needed is the capacity to analyse thoughtfully and in depth. You will also need to be able to write this down, so good essay technique is a must. Some creative capabilities are required for the practical work.

Q: Do I need to be really talented for the practical work?

A: As long as you are willing to put the time in, you will be fine. You will have a choice of tasks, so you can play to your strengths and the technology you use will help you. Providing you have an eye for detail and patience, you will be able to create high quality productions.

Q: Do I have to act in film clips or pose for magazine photographs?

A: Only if you want to. You are only assessed on your 'behind the scenes' skills. Many students use their friends as actors or models.

Q: How is the course assessed?

A: 70% of your grade is from the two exams (worth 35% each). The remaining 30% is non-exam assessment (coursework), comprising your production work (25%) and an accompanying statement of aims and intentions (5%).

Q: Where can I find more information?

A: Further details are available in the sixth form prospectus, on the school's website and on the exam board's website. You can also talk to Mr Bishop or any current Media Studies students.