

Media Studies A Level

Preparation work: Pre-course Reading, Research and Tasks

Pre-reading and research will help you to become more familiar with the topics you are going to study on your A Level Media Studies course. If you complete the tasks below they will also help you to become more confident when you start your course. Remember, if you have already studied Media, it is also good to recap and consolidate your GCSE knowledge; however, don't worry if you are new to the subject as you will not be disadvantaged by this.

Specification :

A good place to start to look at the A level specification and familiarise yourself with what you will be studying on the course:

https://www.eduqas.co.uk/ed/qualifications/media-studies-as-a-level/#tab_overview

Task 1:

Produce an A4 poster on at least 2 of the topics you will be studying. To make your work more visual you can include images, graphs and charts, as well as written text. Use the resources below to find the information;

Media Ownership:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_0ra-sILKU&t=41s

Newspapers:

http://resource.download.wjec.co.uk.s3.amazonaws.com/vtc/2016-17/16-17_1-33/website/_eng/intro/2-news-sources.html

Online Media:

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2018/aug/12/youtubers-feeling-burn-video-stars-crumbling-under-pressure-of-producing-new-content>

Magazines:

http://resource.download.wjec.co.uk.s3.amazonaws.com/vtc/2016-17/16-17_1-32/pdf/_eng/unit1/overview-of-the-industry.pdf

Media Regulation:

<https://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/media-magazine/mmag-clips/professor-sonia-livingstone>

Task 2:

Look at the BFI's list of the 50 best films of 2019. Watch 1 of the films listed and complete the following:

- Write a critical review of the film, identifying which aspects you appreciated (cinematography, editing, performances etc.).
- Consider what makes a 'good' film. Which aspects have been highlighted by the BFI?

Websites for Further Research and Reading:

When studying the media, it is important to keep up-to-date with current events, trends and news stories you will be studying:

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk/culture>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment>

Here are some more specific course-related websites and YouTube channels you may find useful and interesting:

The Media Insider - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGXfqzVEZr0XaZLWG3_HniA

Mrs Fisher's Media Studies Channel -

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUKrxp4BcJrGLzmqAhCjASg>

David Gauntlett's website - <http://theory.org.uk>

Books to Read:

- **The Ride of a Lifetime: Lessons Learned from 15 Years as CEO of the Walt Disney Company** by Robert Iger
- **The Revolution Was Televised** by Alan Sepinwall
- **Hey! Listen!: A journey through the golden era of video games** by Steve McNeil
- **Here Comes Everybody: How Change Happens when People Come Together** by Clay Shirky
- **Hack Attack: How the truth caught up with Rupert Murdoch** by Nick Davis

Podcasts:

BBC Radio 4's The Media Show - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00dv9hq>

BBC Academy Podcast - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02pc9zz/episodes/downloads>

Media Voices - <https://voices.media/category/podcasts>

New Statesman Culture Podcast - <https://www.newstatesman.com/culture>

Task 3:

Source one of the above books or listen to one of the podcasts. Write a summary of the key media issues, facts and points you have learnt.

Films to Watch:

- **Citizenfour (2014)**: award-winning documentary on the whistle-blower Edward Snowden's leak of US National Security Agency's secret information.
- **The Social Network (2010)**: a dramatized account of the rise of Mark Zuckerberg and Facebook.
- **Ex Machina (2014)**: a science fiction film that deals with issues of artificial intelligence and the future of our digital lives.

Progression Opportunities

Why choose Media Studies A Level:

- <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/blog/isnt-it-finally-time-we-took-media-studies-seriously>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/education/mortarboard/2014/feb/03/why-study-media-studies-students>

Career opportunities in creative media:

- <https://www.screenskills.com>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z7n8nrd>

We hope you enjoy completing these tasks and look forward to you joining the course.

