

Each assignment has been given a number below to represent its difficulty. Please do not worry if you have never studied film before, the assignments have been created to be accessible to all.



Small step-up from GCSE – builds on knowledge & skills you may already have.



Step-up from GCSE – builds new knowledge & skills



Complex ideas & themes

Assignment 1: Prior Learning



1. Make a list of all of the subjects you studied at school and how they might help you with A Level Film Studies (hint – it's not just the obvious ones!).
 - a. E.g. English Literature – You learnt how to closely analyse a text to see how the contextual factors (where, when and how the text was made) shaped the language and techniques used, in the same way you will do in Film Studies.
2. Make a list of other subject areas it might be important to have some prior knowledge of before starting A Level Film Studies and why. When you've made the list, see if there's anything you might need to conduct some research into before September.
 - a. E.g. Politics – Most films have a political perspective (even if it's not obvious) so it's important to have at least a basic understanding of different political parties and what we mean by the right and the left, for example.
3. Identify your main areas of interest in A Level Film Studies in answering the question: What makes you want to study Film for the next two years?

Assignment 2: Making Meaning - Film marketing



Study closely the following Film Poster for the film 'Inception', Christopher Nolan (2010) and answer the questions below.



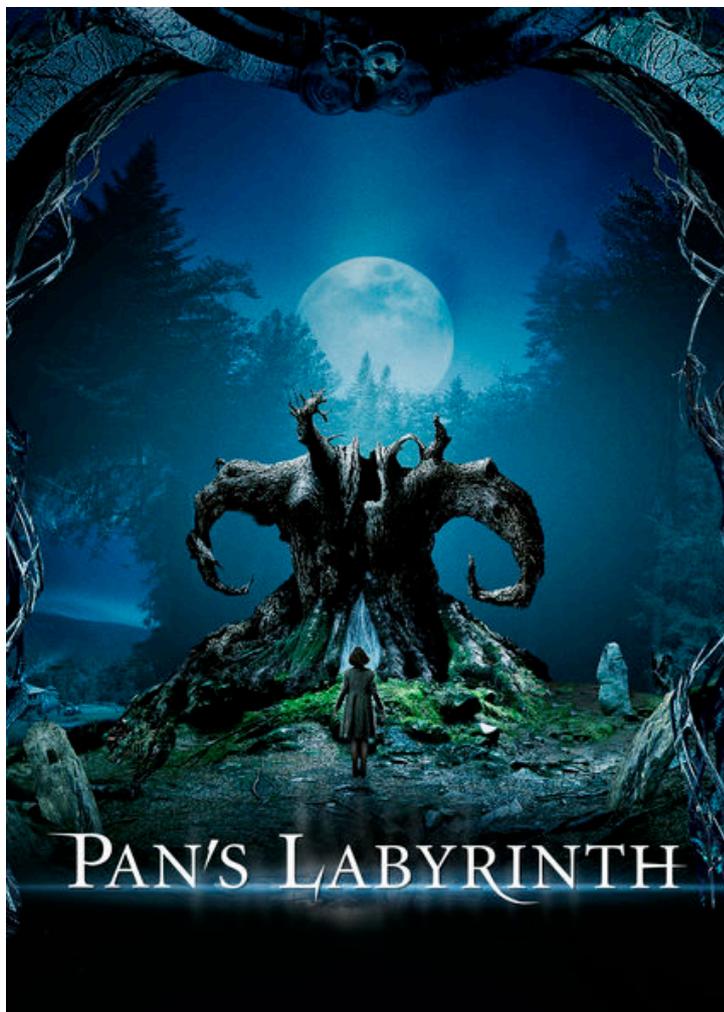
Questions:

1. List 3 things used to market the film to audiences just from what you see in the poster.
2. Which elements are included in the poster that helps the audience identify the genre the film belongs to? Explain your answer.
3. Explain how the layout, props, setting, use of colour scheme and the position of actor informs the audience of the potential narrative (story/plot) of the film?

Assignment 3: Global Film – Textual Analysis – Understanding film construction



Watch the following Film Trailer for Pan's Labyrinth, Del Toro, Spain, (2006) at least 2/3 times before answering the questions below. Link to official trailer on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AchHasH-nLhU>



Questions:

1. What do you expect from the film having seen the trailer?
2. What in the trailer sets up expectation for the audience (consider camerawork, sound and mise-en-scene, etc.)?
3. What would you say is the USP (Unique Selling Point) of the trailer?
4. Who is the audience for this film and how do you know?
5. To what extent does this trailer rely on typical film trailer conventions (e.g. voiceover) to engage the audience? Explain your answer in 200 words or more.

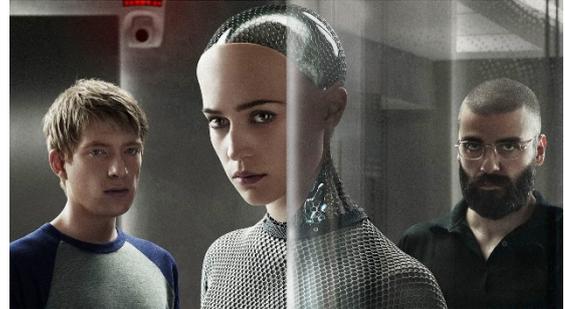
Assignment 4: The contexts of film: social, cultural, political, historical and institutional, including production. British and American Films



Conduct research into the following two films. At the end of your research, write a 700-word comparative essay on the main question below.



Star Wars, The Force Awakens, JJ Abrams (2015)



Ex-Machina, Alex Garland (2015)

Production Context: Research how both films were produced

1. What sort of pre-production, production and post-production processes did both films undergo? Look for interviews on YouTube and article online.
2. Find out key features of the financial and technological opportunities available to both film during their production stages and then comment on how these influenced the way they were made.
3. What makes Star Wars: TFA an American / Hollywood film?
4. Why is Ex-Machina classified as a British film?

Audience reception: Research how both films were received by audiences

1. Who is the core target audience for each film? Explain your answer through evidence you find
2. How did audiences react to each film? What did they enjoy? What did they criticise about each film? Use websites like IMDB.com, Boxofficemojo.com alongside other sites to build on your understanding
3. Which film made the most money at the box office and why? Use IMDB.com as a starting point for your answer

Now write a 700-word essay on the following question.

'In the context of film production, Hollywood is more successful at drawing mass audiences to their films than British filmmakers because they have more money to spend.' Discuss this view in relation to your findings on Star Wars: TFA and Ex-Machina.

Assignment 4: Extension Task – Personal Engagement with Film as Entertainment



Watch a film of your choice and then write a 500-word Film Review of what you thought of it.

For inspiration, watch a couple of Mark Kermode's (BBC Film Critic) reviews of the latest films (either on BBC News 24, shown often, or on YouTube). You could also choose another film critic of your choice.

- ✓ Name of Chosen Film, Year of release and director
- ✓ Where you viewed the film
- ✓ Have you seen it before?
- ✓ What you made of it (what was good, what wasn't, etc.) and if you would recommend it to your family, friends and film teachers at Woking College.

