



HOW TO PREPARE FOR A LEVEL MEDIA STUDIES

Anyone can comment on the media industry and media products, but it takes a media expert to analyse through a critical lens, using knowledge of Media theories and debates as well as their broad cultural capital to truly examine the field.

To get a head start on becoming a media expert you should engage with some of the products and tasks below.

1: Broaden Your Media Horizons

Have a watch/read/listen to the products below. Some are part of the course and you will be examined on, some are just good for improving your cultural capital.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p04b183c/hypernormalisation>

<https://www.teenvogue.com/news-politics>

<https://youtu.be/Vz3eOb6Yl1s>

Film – ‘V for Vendetta’ (2005)

<https://youtu.be/KO7tVuPHOxA>

Netflix – ‘The Social Dilemma’

<https://youtu.be/52VQ3gSzgCE>

2: Question What You Think You Know

Engage with the products below and start asking yourself: do I really know what I think I know?

Gender and Identity:

<https://youtu.be/gkilQ87UUj8>

<https://youtu.be/QMxm-aXAwc4>

<https://youtu.be/-pAcJlFu94>

<https://youtu.be/Nqmd4iU8J3k>

Netflix - Black Mirror – Season 2 – ‘Be Right Back’



Reality:

<https://youtu.be/5RwhEHzuuLA>

Netflix - Black Mirror – Season 3 – ‘Playtest’

Disney is good

https://youtu.be/_jed8B4L4-4

<https://youtu.be/i1t2jxsvelc>

3: Get Creative

Media language refers to the way media products communicate meaning. Media language includes: camera angles and framing, camera movement, editing, lighting, sound, graphics and special effects, costume, props, acting, make up, setting...plus more!

Your challenge is to take a mundane activity and film it in two different ways. For example, you could film making a cup of tea in a way that seems sad and another that seems tense. You could film doing some school work in a way that seems scary and a way that is presented as comical.

You can film and edit on any device, using any software or apps you have access to. These don't need to be feature length films; just a minute or two will do so long and you are effectively demonstrating how media language choices create meaning.

You can use your own ideas, but here are some to help if you have a bit of a mental block.

Activity	Mood/tone
Choosing what to watch on TV	Funny
Checking your social media	Sad
Making a drink/snack	Scary
Drying/styling your hair	Joyful
Washing up	Tense
Getting out of bed/ready for bed	Dramatic
Putting the bins out	Exciting
Dusting/polishing	Eerie



4: Be Reflective

Being reflective is a huge part of being successful in Media. For this challenge you will have to think reflectively about the media and the role it has on shaping us, our views, our ideas about people, places, issues, events, and so on. There are a variety of approaches regarding the influence the media has on us which we will study in detail at A Level.

‘We don’t truly know about the world around us, we just know what media producers want us to think. To what extent do you agree?’

Use the title above to write a minimum 800 word essay. Try to include examples/evidence to support your points of discussion.

Some questions to help you formulate your ideas...

Are audiences active or passive? What about fake news? Think about stereotypes – where do they come from? Where do you get your ideas from about groups of people you’ve never met or places you’ve never been to? What impact does new, e-media have on audiences and their ideas? Are media producers intentionally trying to manipulate audiences? How can audiences now be producers? Who has the most power, producers or audiences?