

# A level Film Studies: Induction work – Phase 3



Welcome back!

Thanks for all the work you've submitted so far. We're having a great time looking through your favourite films, and have added a few of them to our 'to watch' lists. Whoever recommended *J'ai Perdu Mon Corps*, big thumbs up – well, just the one thumb, I guess...

## What work is being set?

In this third phase, we're going to dive deeper into the world of films and filmmaking, and consider some of the wider elements that you might not be able to see on screen:

1. Some definitions to find.
2. Some research into how the film industry works both in America and in the UK and the **contexts** in which films are made.
3. A **production profile** for one British film.
4. Your own thoughts on 'Britishness' is **represented** on screen, and what 'Britishness' means, **ideologically**, based on your experience of film so far.
5. An opportunity to push those filmmaking skills even further and consider how you will **represent** ideas on screen.

## How long should I spend on this work?

We're setting this work to take you through the summer holidays, so we expect you take around 5 hours on it.

## Who should I send this work to and / or who should I contact with any questions?

This time, contact Miss Thompson – [srt@hardenhuish.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:srt@hardenhuish.wilts.sch.uk)

## How and when should I submit work?

Send your written responses to questions 1-4 as a word doc to Miss Thompson (email above) no later than 2 September (your Induction Day). Send moodboards and storyboards as jpeg or other image files, and your finished film as an MP4 or similar also by 2<sup>nd</sup> September\*.

Keep working hard, and we look forward to receiving your work, as well as any questions you have along the way.

\*Your finished film's file size might be too big for the email server, so you might have to upload it to your school Onedrive and share the link. Alternatively, keep it safe until we start in September, and we'll find a solution then!

# Film Studies Induction Work: Phase 3

## Task One: Some Definitions

Find definitions for the following terms in relation to Film Making. You could use a site like [www.elementsofcinema.com](http://www.elementsofcinema.com) to help.

- a) **Development** (not the old-fashioned camera film printing bit!)
- b) **Pre-production**
- c) **Production**
- d) **Post-production**
- e) **Distribution**

## Task Two: Contexts of Production

Below are two lists of film companies – one from the US and one from the UK. **Pick one company from each list and answer the following questions.**

<b>US Companies</b>	<b>UK Companies</b>
Sony Pictures	Film4 Productions
Warner Bros. Pictures	BBC Films
Universal Pictures	Curzon Artificial Eye

- a) Find and read the company website's front page, or their 'about' page. Can you summarise the role this company plays in film making? Use the terms from question 1 if you can.
- b) Is the company part of a larger company, or group of companies? Apart from revenue from the films it makes, can you find out how the company is funded?
- c) If the company is a 'subsidiary' (part of a bigger company), how does it relate to the other companies in that group? If it's independent, what other companies does it work with on its projects?
- d) find the most recent annual 'sales' figures, or revenue, for the company.
- e) list three films the company has recently produced and explain what you think is similarity between them.

*Questions b), c) and d) can probably be answered on Wikipedia. For the last question, you may wish to go back to the company's own website, or just use google.*

## Task Three: British Film - Profile

Pick a British film from the list below. All these films are British-produced and were released in 2018 or 2019. **For your chosen film, produce a short fact file, including:**

- a) the film's director and three main actors.
- b) a list of all of the separate companies who were involved in some way with its production and distribution. Identify the role these companies played, using the definition from task one.
- c) the film's budget and total gross profit (often called 'box office')
- d) anything else you find interesting about the film's process of production.

*The best place to go for a) and b) is [imdb.com](https://www.imdb.com) – under 'more' on the top menu is an option called 'company credits'. Wikipedia will have information on the money.*

Some British Films – 2018 / 2019

- American Animals
- Bait
- Blue Story
- Colette
- Diego Maradona
- Dirty God
- Early Man
- Horrible Histories: The Movie
- How to Build a Girl
- Peterloo
- Shaun the Sheep: Farmageddon
- Stan and Ollie
- The Favourite
- The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society
- The Personal History of David Copperfield
- The Souvenir
- They Shall Not Grow Old

## Task Four: 'Britishness' on screen.

What is it that gives a film its identity? Is it the director? The actors? The accents you here? The setting and locations?

**With reference to two films you have seen\*, write at least 300 words on what you think 'Britishness' means in film.**

You could consider:

- **how the world views Britishness:** look at the roles that British actors (and voices) play in big-budget Hollywood films, like Daisy Ridley and John Boyega in the recent Star Wars trilogy. Or the Harry Potter franchise as a globally recognised version of 'Britishness'. Or why Chris Hemsworth – an Australian – playing the roll of a Norse god, in an American film franchise, speaks with a British accent...
- **how Britain views itself:** what ways does Britain represent itself on screen, in either a modern setting (in films like Blue Story or Fisherman's Friends) or historically (in costume dramas like Downton Abbey)?
- **how British films present the world:** you could look at films by iconic British directors like Ken Loach and Mike Leigh compared to their American counterparts like Quentin Tarantino and Martin Scorsese. What are their concerns, their themes, their world views?
- **anything else from your own experience:** who were your British film heroes growing up? Or were they all American?! How has Britishness on screen reflected or influenced you?

\* You may need to watch (or re-watch) a film or two to help you write this essay. The list of films from task 3 would be a good place to start.

## Task Five: Making Britishness – PRACTICAL

An international film project has asked you to create a short film about what lockdown meant to young people in Britain. Your film will follow a young British person as they go about their daily lockdown business. The film should be 60 seconds long.

a) **Produce a ‘mood board’** of images that represent ‘Britishness’ to you. Think location, costume, and any objects you think of as quintessentially ‘British’. This can be physical or digital.

b) Use these images to **create a twelve-shot storyboard** (like a comic book that shows what a film will look like – [here’s some examples](#)) for your film. You can either draw or photograph this. Try to use a variety of camera shots in your work, based on your phase 1 learning, and record these on your storyboard along with any character movement or other notes. **Pay particular attention to what is in the background of your shots and how everything should suggest ‘Britishness’.**

c) What two songs or pieces of music would be on the soundtrack? Remember, these should also reflect ‘Britishness’.

d) The project’s organisers have also asked for a 150 word blurb to accompany your film, explaining how you have tried to capture ‘Britishness’ on screen. Write this.

e) Use your phone and a free editing app like InShot, KineMaster or YouShot to make your film. If you have other technology you can use, go for it! **Remember to control as much of the background of each shot as possible!** Make sure to add the songs to your soundtrack – do this by playing them while you film (how could you show this happening?) or by adding them in at the editing stage.