

# **GCE Subject Level Guidance for Film Studies**

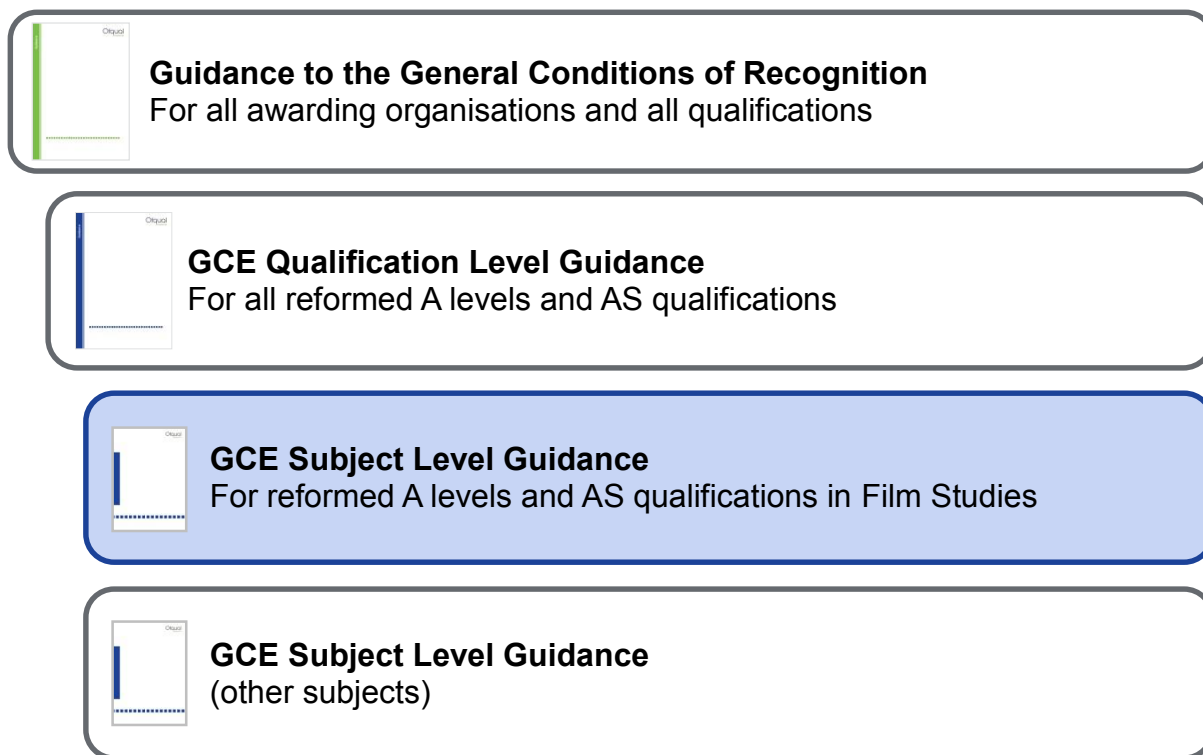
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## Introduction

This document (highlighted in the figure below) is part of a suite of documents which outlines our guidance for awarding organisations offering GCE Qualifications.



This document sets out guidance which applies to the following qualifications:

- all GCE A levels in Film Studies awarded on or after 1 April 2019; and
- all standalone GCE AS qualifications in Film Studies awarded on or after 1 April 2018.

This guidance supports the *GCE Subject Level Conditions and Requirements for Film Studies*.<sup>1</sup>

This document constitutes guidance for the purposes of section 153 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (the '2009 Act'), Condition GCE(Film Studies)1 and Condition GCE(Film Studies)2.

An awarding organisation has a legal obligation under the 2009 Act to have regard to this guidance, where relevant, in relation to each GCE Qualification in Film Studies that it makes available or proposes to make available. Condition GCE(Film Studies)1

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<sup>1</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-subject-level-conditions-and-requirements-for-film-studies](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-subject-level-conditions-and-requirements-for-film-studies)

and Condition GCE(Film Studies)2 impose the same obligation in respect of the guidance below which is issued under those Conditions.

An awarding organisation should use the guidance in this document to help it understand how to comply with the *GCE Subject Level Conditions and Requirements for Film Studies*.

## **Guidance set out in this document**

This document provides guidance on assessments, and on assessment objectives for GCE Qualifications in Film Studies.
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## Guidance in relation to assessments for GCE Qualifications in Film Studies

Condition GCE(Film Studies)2.3 allows us to specify requirements and guidance in relation to assessments for GCE Qualifications in Film Studies.

We set out our guidance for the purposes of Condition GCE(Film Studies)2.3 below.

### Guidance on the role of the film-maker

In respect of a GCE A level qualification in Film Studies, paragraph 34 of the document published by the Secretary of State entitled 'Film studies GCE AS and A level subject content', document reference DFE-00028-2016 (the 'Content Document') requires Learners to produce:

... either a short film or a screenplay for a short film to a brief set by the awarding organisation. Film and screenplay must be individually produced.

In respect of a GCE AS qualification in Film Studies, paragraph 32 of the Content Document requires Learners to produce:

...either an extract from a film or from a screenplay to a brief set by the awarding organisation. Film and screenplay extracts must be individually produced.

Footnote 19 on page 13 of the Content Document in respect of a GCE A level qualification in Film Studies states that:

Unassessed students and others may act in, or appear in, the short film. In addition, unassessed students and others may operate lighting and sound equipment under the direction of the assessed candidate if required.

Footnote 17 on page 12 of the Content Document in respect of a GCE AS qualification in Film Studies states that:

Unassessed students and others may act in, or appear in, the film extract. In addition, unassessed students and others may operate lighting and sound equipment under the direction of the assessed candidate if required.

We expect an awarding organisation to be able to demonstrate in its assessment strategy for a GCE Qualification in Film Studies that it has taken all reasonable steps to ensure that where a Learner utilises unassessed students and others to complete their short film or extract from a film:

- the unassessed students and others work under the direction of the Learner, and
- the Learner is only credited for work that he or she has completed, or which has been completed under his or her direction.

## **Guidance on the design of non-examination assessments**

Ofqual is mindful of the risk of malpractice, and the risk to an awarding organisation's ability to ensure the maintenance of standards through the control of Component and qualification outcomes, which may arise from the design of the film/screenplay production task in a GCE Qualification in Film Studies.

This is particularly the case where an awarding organisation's brief for the task remains the same in successive years as this could lead to Learners' responses focusing on successful productions undertaken by Learners in previous years and an undue strain on grade boundaries in the Assessments by Examination as a means to maintain the standard of the qualification.

Ofqual is also mindful of the risks arising from the timing of the release of the film/screenplay production task. In particular, the length of the period over which Learners may complete the task may serve to narrow the range of attainments demonstrated by Learners.

General Condition A6.2 requires an awarding organisation to take all reasonable steps to prevent an incident which it has identified could have an Adverse Effect, and to prevent any Adverse Effect that the incident could have should it occur. Where that Adverse Effect cannot be prevented, an awarding organisation must take all reasonable steps to mitigate it as far as possible. As defined in General Condition J1.8, an Adverse Effect includes adverse effects to the standard of a qualification.

General Condition A8.1 states that an awarding organisation must take all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of any malpractice in the development of its qualifications.

General Condition E4.2 states that in designing an assessment for a qualification, an awarding organisation must ensure that the assessment –

- is fit for purpose,
- allows each Learner to generate evidence that can be Authenticated, and

- allows each specified level of attainment detailed in the specification to be reached by a Learner who has attained the required level of knowledge, skills and understanding.

Under General Condition G9.2, an awarding organisation must ensure that the same three requirements are met on delivery of an assessment.

In respect of the assessments that are not Assessments by Examination for a GCE Qualification in Film Studies which it makes available, or proposes to make available, we expect an awarding organisation to –

- (a) take all reasonable steps to prevent and, where prevention is not possible, to mitigate the likelihood of malpractice occurring,
- (b) ensure that the design of those assessments does not place unnecessary strain on the Assessments by Examination as a means to maintain the standard of the qualification,
- (c) take all reasonable steps to ensure that the timing of the release of the film/screenplay production task does not unduly narrow the range of attainments demonstrated by Learners, and
- (d) demonstrate in its assessment strategy how it has sought to fulfil the three aims above.

## Guidance on assessment objectives for GCE Qualifications in Film Studies

Condition GCE(Film Studies)1.2 allows us to specify requirements and guidance relating to assessment objectives for GCE Qualifications in Film Studies.

We published our requirements in relation to assessment objectives in *GCE Subject Level Conditions and Requirements for Film Studies*, and reproduce them in the table below.

	Objective	Weighting (A level)	Weighting (AS)
<b>AO1</b>	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of elements of film.	30-40%	30-40%
<b>AO2 (AS)</b>	Apply knowledge and understanding of elements of film to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ analyse and compare films, including through the use of critical approaches</li> <li>■ analyse and evaluate own work in relation to other professionally produced work</li> </ul>	n/a	40-50%
<b>AO2 (A level)</b>	Apply knowledge and understanding of elements of film to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ analyse and compare films, including through the use of critical approaches</li> <li>■ evaluate the significance of critical approaches</li> <li>■ analyse and evaluate own work in relation to other professionally produced work</li> </ul>	40-50%	n/a
<b>AO3</b>	Apply knowledge and understanding of elements of film to the production of film or screenplay	20%	20%

We set out below our guidance for the purposes of Condition GCE(Film Studies)1.2. This guidance explains how we expect awarding organisations to interpret these assessment objectives in terms of:



- the different 'strands' within each of the assessment objectives;
- the discrete 'elements' within each assessment objective and its strands that questions and tasks could target and/or seek to credit – our expectation is that each and every question/task should target or seek to credit at least one of these elements, and may target or seek to credit multiple elements across one or more assessment objectives;
- the coverage expectations, such as in relation to the different elements within each assessment objective and how those elements should be sampled over time; and
- the key areas of emphasis in each assessment objective and the particular meaning for the subject of any key terms and phrases used; defined terms are shown in bold text, followed by their definitions.

In line with the obligations set out in Condition GCE(Film Studies)1.2, we expect awarding organisations to be able to demonstrate how they have had regard to this guidance. For example, an awarding organisation could map how it has regard to the guidance as it:

- develops its sample assessment materials;
- delivers the qualification;
- develops and applies its approach to sampling the elements into which the assessment objectives are divided; and
- monitors the qualification to make sure it addresses all elements appropriately.

AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of elements of film			30-40% (A level) 30-40% (AS)
Strands	Elements	Coverage	Interpretations and definitions
n/a	1a – Demonstrate knowledge of elements of film.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Full coverage in each set of assessments<sup>2</sup> (but not in every assessment).</li> <li>■ A maximum of 10% of the total marks for the qualification should reward demonstrating knowledge in isolation.<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Elements of film</b> are aspects of subject content, as outlined in paragraphs 4 to 30 of the document published by the Secretary of State entitled ‘Film Studies AS and A level subject content, document reference DFE-00028-2016 (the ‘Content Document’).</li> </ul>
	1b – Demonstrate understanding of elements of film.		

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<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of this guidance, a ‘set of assessments’ means the assessments to be taken by a particular Learner for a GCE Qualification in Film Studies. For clarity, the assessments taken by Learners may vary, depending on any possible routes through the qualification.

<sup>3</sup> Marks which ‘reward demonstrating knowledge in isolation’ means any mark awarded solely for recalling facts or other knowledge. It does not include marks awarded for selecting appropriate knowledge (for example, to evidence an argument), or for applying knowledge to a particular context.

AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding of elements of film to:		n/a (A level) 40-50% (AS)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ analyse and compare films, including through the use of critical approaches</li> <li>■ analyse and evaluate own work in relation to other professionally produced work</li> </ul>			
Strands	Elements	Coverage	Interpretations and definitions
<b>1 – Apply knowledge and understanding of elements of film to analyse and compare films, including through the use of critical approaches</b>	1a – Apply knowledge and understanding of elements of film to analyse films.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Full coverage in each set of assessments (but not in every assessment).</li> <li>■ Awarding organisations should justify the balance between elements 1a, 1b and 1c in their assessment strategies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Elements of film</b> are aspects of subject content, as outlined in paragraphs 4 to 27 of the Content Document.</li> <li>■ <b>Critical approaches</b> are aspects of subject content, as outlined in paragraph 28 of the Content Document.</li> <li>■ <b>Analyse</b> means deconstructing ideas and/or information and/or evidence to find connections and provide logical chains of reasoning. In the context of GCE Film Studies this is in relation to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ How meanings and responses are created in film</li> <li>□ The significance and influence of the contexts in which films are produced and/or viewed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ <b>Compare</b> implies both the comparison of ideas, forms and perspectives and the means by which these are conveyed.</li> </ul>
	1b – Apply knowledge and understanding of elements of film to compare films.		
	1c – Apply knowledge and understanding of elements of film, including through the use of critical approaches.		
<b>2 –Apply knowledge and understanding of elements of film to analyse and evaluate own work in relation to other professionally produced work.</b>	This strand is a single element		

<b>AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding of elements of film to:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ analyse and compare films, including through the use of critical approaches</li> <li>■ evaluate the significance of critical approaches</li> <li>■ analyse and evaluate own work in relation to other professionally produced work</li> </ul>			40-50% (A level) n/a (AS)
Strands	Elements	Coverage	Interpretations and definitions
<b>1 – Apply knowledge and understanding of elements of film to analyse and compare films, including through the use of critical approaches</b>	1a – Apply knowledge and understanding of elements of film to analyse films.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Full coverage in each set of assessments (but not in every assessment).</li> <li>■ Awarding organisations should justify the balance between strands 1 and 2 and between elements 1a, 1b and 1c in their assessment strategies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Elements of film</b> are aspects of subject content, as outlined in paragraphs 4 to 27 of the Content Document.</li> <li>■ <b>Critical approaches</b> are aspects of subject content, as outlined in paragraphs 28 to 30 of the Content Document.</li> <li>■ <b>Analyse</b> means deconstructing ideas and/or information and/or evidence to find connections and provide logical chains of reasoning. In the context of GCE Film Studies this is in relation to:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ How meanings and responses are created in film</li> <li>□ The significance and influence of the contexts in which films are produced and/or viewed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	1b – Apply knowledge and understanding of elements of film to compare films.		
	1c – Apply knowledge and understanding of elements of film, including through the use of critical approaches.		

AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding of elements of film to:			40-50% (A level) n/a (AS)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ analyse and compare films, including through the use of critical approaches</li> <li>■ evaluate the significance of critical approaches</li> <li>■ analyse and evaluate own work in relation to other professionally produced work</li> </ul>			
Strands	Elements	Coverage	Interpretations and definitions
<b>2 – Apply knowledge and understanding of elements of film to evaluate the significance of critical approaches</b>	This strand is a single element		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Compare</b> implies both the comparison of ideas, forms and perspectives and the means by which these are conveyed.</li> </ul>
<b>3 –Apply knowledge and understanding of elements of film to analyse and evaluate own work in relation to other professionally produced work.</b>	This strand is a single element		

AO3: Apply knowledge and understanding of elements of film to the production of film or screenplay.			20% (A level) 20% (AS)
Strands	Elements	Coverage	Interpretations and definitions
n/a	This AO is a single element.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full coverage in each set of assessments (but not in every assessment).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Elements of film</b> are aspects of subject content, as outlined in paragraphs 4 to 27 of the Content Document.</li> </ul>

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