

Film Studies: Top Tips for Success at A Level

Teacher tips:

1. Research around film studies through shows such as The Kermode and Mayo film review- (podcast or live) on BBC Radio 5 live and Soundtracking with Edith Bowman.
2. Stay organised (keep a file, order all notes and hand-outs for future reference).
3. Learn specialist terminology regularly and use this in both speech and writing.
4. Re-read class notes at regular intervals and be independent in developing and consolidating knowledge.
5. Discuss films and their cultural/social/political significance outside of lesson time. Relate issues and debates in the world of film with real world issues.
6. Learn about the people who make films (directors, producers, film studies etc.) and research how they have progressed through their careers.
7. Research other related areas of study for personal interest (e.g. specific directors such as Alfred Hitchcock and film movements such as film noir).
8. Manage time and workload effectively, particularly in relation to coursework.
9. Act upon advice given on coursework, classwork or verbally.
10. Aspire to be an expert on the subject of film as an art form.

Student tips:

1. Watch films of a range of different genres, even those you wouldn't normally watch.
2. Complete homework on time!
3. In and out of lessons, consider elements of film when watching anything.
4. Be ready to analyse small details you wouldn't catch when normally watching.
5. Keep up to date with detailed notes.
6. Practise your essay-writing techniques- it is mainly an examination-based subject.