



CLAIRES COURT
SIXTH FORM

Curriculum Statement

Year 12 and 13 - Media Studies
2025 – 2026

Your place to *aim high*

Media Studies

Awarding Body: Cambridge International

About the course

Media Studies is central to understanding 21st Century culture. It is a relevant and challenging subject where students can explore a diverse range of topics such as consumers and producers in film, TV, social media, video games, and the music industry.

We live in the midst of the 'information age' where media constantly saturates our everyday lives. Whether we use iPads, television, or simply go to the cinema we are constantly consuming media and sharing our thoughts with others. Media Studies gives students the opportunity to become confident discerners of all types of media, as well as starting their journey in a more professional context.

Who is suitable for this course?

This course is suitable for anyone who is interested in studying media and exploring its vital role in creating our views and perspectives, as well as its role of the media in influencing our perspective.

Requirements for success

Entry requirements

- GCSE English grade 5 required.

Course structure

This is an international A level linear two year course with two examinations and two pieces of coursework. Please note, two pieces of coursework are worth 50% of the course.

Course outline – Year 12

In the first year of Media Studies students will learn practical skills by creating the opening scenes of a film working in specialist roles such as directors, editors and visual effects designers.

The examination component (taken at the end of the two year course) is split into two parts. The first part is analysis of representation in a television extract. For the second part of the paper, students will study the film industry.

The course is split into:

- Component one – Foundation portfolio
- Component two: Part A – Media texts examination

- Component two: Part B – Media contexts examination.

Component one - Foundation Portfolio

Coursework 25%

- Thriller film opening production to include a logo and credits, planning and evaluation.

Component two

One paper, two parts:

Part A - Media Texts examination

Exam 25%

- Representation - an unseen TV drama source (one question) will be analysed in timed conditions focusing on technical codes such as camerawork and sound, representation and meaning.

Part B - Media Contexts examination

Exam 25%

- This will be a media contexts examination based on the film industry (one question from a choice of two).

Method of study

A mixture of film and music video production alongside marketing and branding strategies provide an exciting opportunity for students. In addition to this, textual analysis and contemporary media debates allow students to learn new practical skills and theoretical perspectives necessary in our contemporary media age.

Assessment

Overall, the course is 50% coursework (two pieces of coursework in total) and 50% exam (two exams).

Where does it lead?

Media Studies is a stepping stone to university or apprenticeship. It also leads to a career in advertising, marketing, filmmaking and digital media such as website development and social media marketing. Cambridge is also recognised for enabling students to have a global perspective with regards to media texts.

COURSE OUTLINE – YEAR 13

In Year 13 Media studies students will undertake a music video promotion package for their coursework component to include a social media page and the artwork for an accompanying digipak album.

The exam is split into three sections. In the first part, students will analyse how we live in a postmodern age by studying films, television, gaming, music videos, social media and the news. The second part of this exam will be on media regulation using social media and using monopoly companies such as Meta as case studies. Finally, the third part of this exam is on media ecology which is communication studies - music streaming, news, politics and social media advancements.

The focus of this paper is how the media is adapted and used in the 21st Century.

The course is split into:

- Component three – Advanced portfolio
- Component four: Part A – Media debates examination (Two parts, 30 marks total)
- Component four: Part B – Media ecology examination (One part, 30 marks total)

COMPONENT THREE – ADVANCED PORTFOLIO

Coursework 25%

- Music promotion package for an artist or band to include an Instagram page, a music video and a digipak design for an artist or group.

COMPONENT FOUR

- One paper, two parts:

PART A – MEDIA DEBATES EXAMINATION

Exam 25%

- Postmodern media and media regulation (two part question).

PART B – MEDIA ECOLOGY EXAMINATION

Exam 25%

- Media ecology (choice of two questions).

MASTERY

In Year 13 students will be taught core skills and concepts such as composition of images, symbolism, lighting and the foundations of the subject. These foundations include representation, genre, narrative, media language and the role of media institutions. To focus their understanding further, students are taught how to analyse the media through TV analysis and research related to their own film case studies. Recall exercises are a necessary part of the curriculum, embedded into lessons alongside in depth analysis skills necessary for university study.

Throughout the two years of study, students will be understanding what makes an effective form of media analysis alongside necessary technical skills to prepare them for the industry. This includes how to operate and use software and hardware effectively such as editing software. Furthermore, students are encouraged to become active researchers within their field of study to include audiences, media text positioning and careers within the industry. Media Studies is a contemporary course which prepares students for both technical industry roles and production management roles.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Mr Sam Robertson - snr@clairescourt.net