

A Level Film Studies

Summer Work

The A Level qualification in Film Studies is comprised of three components:

- **Paper 1 – Film History** (35%)
- **Paper 2 – Critical Approaches to Film** (35%)
- **Non-Examined Assessment – Making a Short Film** (30%)

As part of Paper 2 you will study **Contemporary British and American films** from a list of set texts.

For the Summer Work we would like you to:

1. Watch

Choose 1 British and 1 American film from the list below:

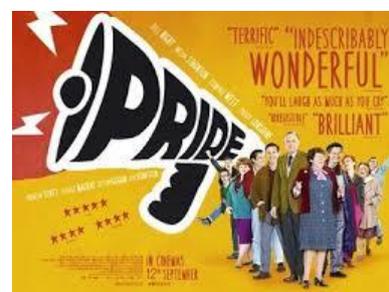
Contemporary British set film list:	Contemporary US set film list
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Pride</i> (2014). Directed by Matthew Warchus. Britain, 15• <i>Gone Too Far</i> (2013). Directed by Destiny Ekaragha. Britain, 12• <i>Ex-Machina</i> (2014). Directed by Alex Garland. Britain, 15• <i>The Angel's Share</i> (2012). Directed by Ken Loach. Britain, 15• <i>We Need to Talk About Kevin</i> (2011). Directed by Lynne Ramsay. Britain, 15• <i>Skyfall</i> (2012), Directed by Sam Mendes. Britain, 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Guardians of the Galaxy</i> (2014). Directed by James Gunn. USA, 12• <i>The Hunger Games</i> (2012). Directed by Gary Ross. USA, 15• <i>Star Wars: The Force Awakens</i> (Abrams 2015). Directed by J.J. Abrams. USA, 12• <i>The Dark Knight Rises</i> (2012). Directed by Christopher Nolan. USA. 12• <i>Zootopia</i> (2016). Directed by Rich Moore, Jared Bush, Byron Howard. USA, PG• <i>Jurassic World</i> (2015). Directed by Colin Trevorrow. USA, 12



2. Ponder

Watch both films and make notes on:

- **Genre** (What 'type' of film is it defined as on iMDB e.g. comedy, horror, sci-fi? How was it OBVIOUS that the film can be classified as this genre? Did the film meet your expectations of a film from that genre? Did the film give you more / less than what you expected? Are the stars of the film already associated with that genre of film?)
- **Narrative** (Who is the protagonist, and who is the antagonist? Does the story unfold in chronological order, does it have flashbacks, or maybe even start at the end? Are there any plot twists? Is there a resolution at the end of the film?)



- **Representation** (Is the film trying to communicate messages about groups of people, or issues in society e.g. gender, sexuality, disability, ethnic origin, social class etc). Does the film have relevance to any current events?

Type up your notes for each film and comment on the ways that the films are similar and / or different.

3. Research

Use iMDB and box office mojo (www.imdb.com and www.boxofficemojo.com) to find out some further information **on each film:**

- What was the budget for each film?
- How much money did each film make at the box office a) domestic release b) foreign release c) global release?
- Were the films made using digital production technology or shot on celluloid?



- Were the films nominated for / did they win any awards from a) The Oscars b) Cannes Film Festival or c) The BAFTAs?
- Were the reviews for the films positive or negative? Check a) The Guardian b) Rotten Tomatoes and c) www.ukfilmreview.co.uk
- Who is was the director for each film? Which other films have they worked on?
- Were the films released in a number of formats at the cinema e.g. 2D, 3D, IMAX?
- How many ways are you able to view each of the films e.g. on a mobile phone (through which services?), computer screen (through which services?), television (through which services?)



Type up your findings for each film and comment on the ways that the films are similar and / or different.

4. Conclude:

- Write a 300-word conclusion about which is the 'better' film in your opinion.
- Refer to the information that you have collected to support your choice.

How To Submit:

- Make sure that your name is written clearly and neatly at the top of the work.
- Ensure that pages are stapled together, or the work is in a plastic wallet.
- Make sure that you have typed up the response, and put some effort into the presentation of your work.

Bring your work to your Enrolment Interview and hand it in to your interviewer. If you forget, or are unable to attend the interview, please hand in to your teacher in your first A Level Film lesson.