

Media Studies

Examination board: OCR

The course

To make a film, write an article or design an effective website, you need to understand how much skill is involved, both in handling the information and understanding how people could be influenced by it. Media A level achieves this. It is a blend of imaginative creativity, academic theory and IT skills.

The course allows students to select their path of study, choosing which media to specialise in and which case studies to research. Mostly, it is just interesting and allows you to gain an academic perspective on your own knowledge and use of the media.

There are two modules in each year: one creative coursework production and one theoretical exam. The practical productions provide an opportunity to learn relevant, modern media production skills and to put your imagination and understanding of the media into practice. Options include print, film, audio or web-based projects. Students learn how to work in each medium and then pick one to continue as their main coursework piece.

The theoretical exam is based on understanding through text analysis how the media communicates messages and values and how the media business sector operates, particularly the film industry.

Requirements

Students with creative, technical and academic ability are all equally suited. A contemporary interest in the media is essential. Media is no 'soft option' and many students remark that, whilst enjoyable, it requires more effort than their other subjects.

Where can it take you?

Every career requires some interaction and knowledge of the media. The portfolio of work that the student builds over the course will help every university application and job interview. There are obviously many media degrees and career opportunities.