



OUR COURSE DETAILS

Our A-Level Media Studies course supports students' interest in media forms/texts and considers how what we consume affects us.

We study a wide variety of media forms from the traditional (such as newspapers and radio) to 'new' media (such as websites and vlogs), some will be familiar and mainstream, some historical and some, non-English language texts designed for minority audiences. The A Level course follows the EDUQAS/WJEC specification, one of the oldest and most established subject options.



PREPARING FOR STUDY

Although everything is rather strange at the moment, it's a fascinating time to study the media.

As you watch, listen, read, play and make – think! In preparation, watch and study a variety of media including: films, TV shows, news programming, music videos, short film extracts, animation, digital games, print adverts and posters etc.

A useful revision source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/ztnygk7>



EMPLOYABILITY

There is a huge variety of jobs available in the media which require a wide range of skills - think about your strengths and the sorts of things you enjoy doing. You could work in film and television production, editing, advertising, marketing, P.R., Games Design, social media, scriptwriting, journalism, web design, radio broadcasting, news reporting.....research these careers and many more. Start here:

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree>



OUR TOP READS

There are lots of good, general textbooks such as *The Media Student's Book* by Gill Branston & Roy Stafford. It's huge and something you dip in and out of rather than just read but it covers all the key concepts. You can often buy secondhand copies quite cheaply.

As well as books you can also start reading newspapers and magazines – both of which you'll cover on the course. You'll study *The Times*, *The Daily Mirror*, *Vogue* and *The Big Issue* so you could look at editions of these but reading any papers, national or local and magazines will help develop your understanding of the forms.

www.essentialmediatheory.com/ is another excellent introduction to the subject.

UNIVERSITY COURSES

There are many excellent University courses available within the subject area depending on where your interests and career ambitions lie. You can apply for degree courses in television, radio, film and magazine production, animation, web design, marketing, scriptwriting, games production, sports journalism, public relations and many, many more.

Locally, Nottingham Trent University, Derby, Lincoln, De Montfort and Sheffield Hallam all have excellent, well-resourced courses.



Watch the 'making of' or any other DVD extras on a variety of films. It often shows you behind the scenes and just how many people are involved in producing a media text.

Programmes like *Blue Planet* also end every episode with a 'making of' section, these are interesting to watch because they show how something which seems "natural" is constructed and is the result of a series of choices.

Watch the news. How are the stories (or is there just one?) organised? Very few films are being released currently; how will this affect the industry? Will we ever go back to the cinema or will we just carry on downloading films? Lockdown has also had a big impact on social media stars/influencers. The ones that really only sell stuff have little to say whilst others, like Joe Wicks, are gaining in popularity and reaching a whole new audience! Your coursework for A Level Media Studies will be making a music video; there have been a number of songs released that have "lockdown" videos" - look on YouTube for Kings Daughters, Get Up and Kaiser Chiefs, Oh My God (Stay Home Edition). Have you been making and sharing media content? How have you been doing this?

In preparation, watch, listen, read and study a variety of media including films, TV shows, news programmes, newspapers, advertisements, games, magazines and social media. As you consume them consider how they represent people, places, ideas and beliefs. Do they use stereotypes? How are the audience supposed to react to them?



PEOPLE & ORGANISATIONS TO RESEARCH

The Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) regulates newspapers in the UK. Find out who they are and how they work.

Stuart Hall is a fascinating character and one of the key figures in the development of Media Studies. What can you find out about him?

Rupert Murdoch is a media mogul, he owns newspapers, TV & film companies. Research him and the media companies he owns.

Public Service Broadcasting is a term used to describe the way the **BBC** is run. What does it mean?



USEFUL ONLINE LINKS

Mrs Fisher's videos are a really good introduction to A Level Media Studies. Mrs Fisher is a Media Studies teacher; her short videos cover key concepts and texts and are an excellent way of developing your knowledge and understanding. If you've never studied the media before start with the GCSE videos.

You can find them here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUKrxp4BcJrGLzmqAhCjASg/videos>



LINKS TO THE SPECIFICATIONS

https://www.edugas.co.uk/ed/qualifications/media-studies-as-a-level/#tab_overview