

GUIDANCE NOTES

Foundation Production Module (Coursework)

The task

Produce the titles and opening of a new fiction film (maximum 2 minutes)

What is required?

A presentation of the research and planning (20 marks)

The finished video (60 marks)

A written evaluation of the production (20 marks)

The video will be sent to the examiners on a DVD and the research, planning and evaluation reports will be put on your Blog for them to see.

The Evaluation

In the evaluation the following questions must be answered:

- In what ways does your production use, develop or challenge forms and conventions of real fiction films (in your chosen genre)?
- How does your film represent particular social groups?
- What kind of media institution might distribute your film and why?
- Who would be the audience for your film?
- How did you attract/address your audience?
- What have you learnt about technologies in the process of constructing this film?
- Looking back at your preliminary task, what do you feel you have learnt in the progression from it to the full product?

The Research

This section, in essay form, should discuss your research into fiction films (and in particular their first 2 minutes) of the same genre as yours. Try to establish a clear pattern and relate it to your own production. You need to discuss particular films quoting their title, year of release and director.

Talk about the generic conventions of your genre and how they are used to establish the representations in the genre. (See Textual Analysis Checklist for all the possibilities here).

Planning

Pre-production

This section should include:

- Your **synopsis** (including a description of the characters and involved to enable selection of actors)
- Your **screenplay** (scenes, words and actions but not necessarily camera directions)
- Your **shooting script** (shot by shot to be used as a check list when filming)
- A **storyboard** (based on shooting script to help discuss and frame the shots)

- Research into various possible **locations** (with descriptions and photos)
Try to investigate 2 or 3 alternatives even if you have already chosen one. Say why you have chosen your favourite consider all the options (check out the “choosing a location” handout)
- Research into various possible **actors**. Try to audition 2 or 3 people for each role (include photos) and then say why you have rejected or chosen each one.

- Consideration and preparation of **mise-en-scene**. Here you need to consider the elements of your production that will contribute to your representations: **settings** (may have been considered under locations) **costumes** and **props**. What is needed and how will these enhance your production.

Planning

Shooting

Prepare for shooting by:

- scheduling actors rehearsals
- planning shooting dates and times
- producing call sheets (who should be where when)
- ensuring (with checklist) that technical facilities are prepared and available
- getting necessary permissions.

General Notes

You need to be very sure that your actors and technicians and other helpers* are going to be available when you want to film. Make sure they are aware of your requirements well in advance so they can obtain any permission to miss class, etc. Also make sure they are aware that this is serious work for your A level and that they must behave professionally at all times when filming.

In previous years much time has been wasted because certain individuals haven't been available when expected.

Be aware and plan for adverse weather or other unforeseen problems which may mean you have to re-schedule your work.

Planning is everything. In particular know what you are going to do in advance. Don't arrive at filming and make it up as you go along, it will take too long.

Remember.....allow 15 minutes for every 2 minutes of filming.....and remember that you will probably film 10 or 20 times the amount of material that you will eventually use, so that means around 30 minutes of film takes. That's a total of 3 to 4 hours filming over all your locations plus travelling time, breaks, technical problems, etc. Don't underestimate how long this is going to take.

Finally, look after your crew and actors - drinks and snacks, etc. should be provided.

**You may need help with props, make-up, costumes, catering, or just carrying things – don't try to do it all yourself.*