



A LEVEL FILM STUDIES SUMMER HOMEWORK 2026

1. Read through (and work your way through) [this](#) list of IMDB's top 250 films of all time. you should ideally have seen at least 75-100 of them by September. It would be helpful if you viewed at least genuinely 2-3 classic films- *Citizen Kane* (Orson Welles, 1942), *Vertigo* (Alfred Hitchcock, 1958), *The Shining* (Stanley Kubrick, 1980), *Tokyo Story* (Yasujiro Ozu, 1953), *The Godfather* (Francis Ford Coppola, 1972), *Apocalypse Now* (Francis Ford Coppola, 1979), *Seven Samurai* (Akira Kurosawa, 1954) or similar. AS WELL AS at least 2-3 of the set films; *Vertigo*, *Do The Right Thing*, *We Need To Talk About Kevin*, *This is England*, *Joker*, *Amy*, *Parasite* and/or *Pan's Labyrinth*. Write down a 5-10 sentence summary of your response to these films. Carefully consider what, specifically, has provoked your response. Use film terminology.
2. Please read at least one issue of *Empire*, *Total Film* or *Sight and Sound* film magazines. Try to listen to film podcasts; *Kermode and Mayo's Take*, *Inside Total Film*, *Films to be Buried With* and *The Curzon* film podcast are all pretty good. And please read at least 3 articles on the [department padlet](#)- please comment on at least one of them (just film-related articles is fine). The first column on the left is all about film.
3. Go to the cinema this summer! Write a 250- 500 word, detailed account of the experience and how important you believe the cinema is and why, up to two sides.
4. **Either:** create a 10-20 slide presentation that pitches a new idea for a **British social realist** film. Find out what that means, what the genre conventions are (with examples) and outline your ideas for the plot and how/ where you would film it. What's its USP (Unique Selling Point) and message? How, specifically, would you portray the film's message?

OR:

Plan, film and edit a 1-2 minute **complete short film** that is suitable for a U certification. Pick a theme from: **SURPRISE, THE GIFT, THE RETURN, CONFLICT**. If you've studied film or media before, use your Adobe log ins, if not, then use something like CapCut, iMovie or Splice to edit your footage. Once complete, write a short evaluation that reflects on how well you met the aims and explored the theme and why.