

SUMMER TASK

FILM - A LEVEL



In preparation for year one, you have some work to do over the summer.

TASK: FILM REVIEW

You will soon be joining the AL Film course. This is an academic course that will develop your analytical, research, presentation, technical and creative skills. The course is concerned with the study of films from the present, the past, different cultures and in many different styles and forms.....what they all have in common is that they are seen as important films, films that have changed the art form or had an impact on the world around us. You will enjoy the films that we study but the main reason for studying them is to consider how and why they are important films.

To prepare you for this and to show your new teacher what you can do we are asking you to complete the following task:

Write a 600 word review for a film that you think is an important film.

You can choose any film and write in a style that you think is appropriate. We would like you to use professional review conventions. Have a look at real reviews from professional reviewers in newspapers / magazines and see how they approach it. We do not want a 500 word description of the plot! We would mainly like to know why you think the film is important. Consider using the following points if you are unsure of what to write about:

- **Narrative.** Think about the story of the film. Are the characters, events or settings important or do they connect with important events or capture the spirit of a particular place or time? Is the way the film is plotted important? Some films have very complex and intriguing plot structures that create great creative effects. Some film narratives have been as groundbreaking in the way they have shown something or broken new ground in storytelling.
- **Aesthetics.** Think about the look and sound of your film choice. Consider the style of camera-work, use of visuals, sound, performance and editing. Some films are seen as important because they have changed the stylistic approach to film-making or have been seen as capturing an important artistic period in history. Some films are seen as important because they look and sound so beautiful and may be celebrated as great films for this reason.
- **Ideologies.** Some films have important themes and ideas running through them. You should consider the messages and values of your film choice, is it about an important subject or viewpoint. Some films have changed the way we think about subjects, places, history and people. Some films have captured important ideas in history.
- **Production Contexts.** Some films are important because of when, how or where they were made. Does your film have an interesting or important production history?
- **Spectatorship.** Some films are important because of the effects they have had on spectators and audiences. Does your film have a history of having a powerful effect on individuals, audiences or societies? Some films might be seen as important because they are controversial, shocking and provocative, other films might be seen as great because of the emotional effects they have on audiences.
- **Auteur.** Is your film important because of the person/ people who made it? It may have been made by an important filmmaker, studio, technical genius or feature an important film star.

Don't limit yourself to these points, include anything else you wish to. Have fun writing it and include images/ screenshots to illustrate your points.

Any questions email stephenrobson@leggott.ac.uk