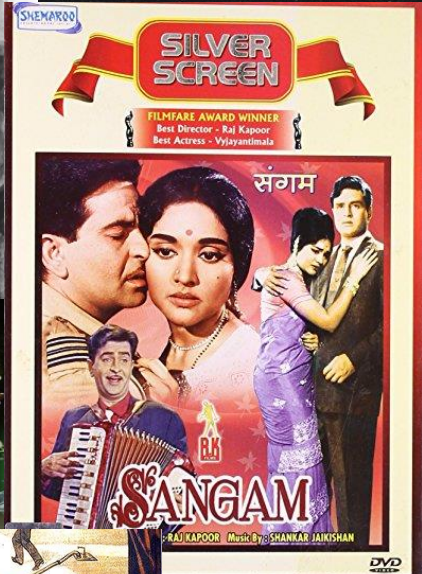
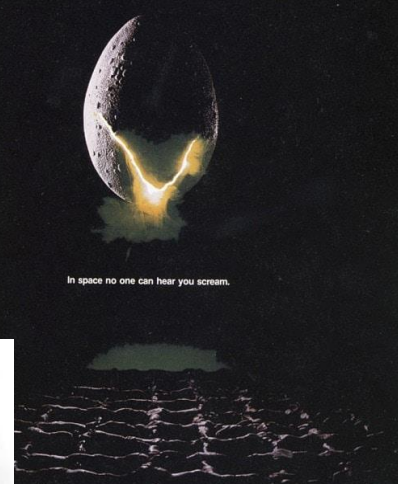


**A-Level Film Studies**



## Welcome to A Level Film Studies !

Hi there and thank-you for visiting this site. I'm guessing that you are here because you are planning to study A Level Film Studies in September but if not, you're welcome anyway.

The aim here is to get you into a strong position for the start of the course by providing you with activities to work on, and films to screen, during the summer term and beyond. Further activities will be posted later.

### Students who did not take GCSE Film Studies or Media Studies.

Don't worry – it's really not a problem. In past years, we have enrolled many students in your position and they have gone on to be highly successful in A-Level Film. In fact, in this year's Y13 class, half of the students are expecting to take up a place on a Film Studies related degree course and two of those students were new to Film Studies in Y12!

Of course, there will be much to learn and it will require dedication and a lot of time, but this is true of every A-level (check the next paragraph!). It will also be rewarding, inspiring and, I hope, enjoyable for the majority of the time.

Working through the materials on this site, before September, will do a great deal to build your skill-base and self-confidence in A-Level Film Studies.

### Students who took GCSE Film or Media Studies in Key Stage 4.

Every Year 13 student will tell you that, even though you did very well in a subject in Year 11, you'll find that the step up to A-Level is huge, both in terms of depth of thought and the amount of content. Working through the materials on this site will help you to keep your acquired knowledge fresh and it will stretch you with new ideas. It will also ease the workload a little in September, when there will be a lot to take in.

### Let's get started with a quick Intro' to : 'Key Elements of Film Form' (From here on in – IF IT'S IN BOLD PURPLE FONT, LEARN IT BY HEART! You will need to know it, and you will use it often).

Everyone studied GCSE English Literature, so let's start with a comparison to that. In Eng' Lit' you studied various types of texts, their possible meanings and tones, how characters were represented and **how those meanings were created through the authors' use of language, structure and form.**

We will be studying film texts in a very similar way. Film makers have so much more than just the screenplay (script) with which to experiment. As well as the performers, set, props and costumes, they have cameras and lighting that can be manipulated in various ways. They can record sound and add music and effects. They can use computer generated imagery (CGI). Once the filming is done, they can cut the recorded film into sequences and position them in various ways.

In other words, **film has its own language and grammar that is used make meanings.**

We will be using the term 'Key Elements of Film Form' to describe the language and grammar of film.

The film terminology for these key elements is:

- **Mise-en-scene** (what you can see in the frame\*) →
- **Cinematography** (use of the camera) →
- **Editing** (how the film is sequenced) →
- **Sound** (sound recorded during filming or added after) →

\* Essential film terminology. "Frame" means what you can see on the screen. Now, shut this intro' down and open the "Mise-en-scene" page.

