

Teaching guide: paper two

This is an overview of GCSE Media Studies Paper Two. It outlines the types of questions candidates can be asked and provides a breakdown of the Close Study Products that might appear in the paper. This resource should be considered alongside the latest copy of the specification, the Specimen Assessment Materials and any other past papers, depending upon availability.

Overview

Media Two covers all four areas of the theoretical framework and is divided into two sections; Section A (Television) and Section B (covering **either** newspapers **or** online, social and participatory media and video games).

The paper will not include questions from any other media form and will not include unseen material, although at least one question will require reference to a short clip from one of the two television Close Study Products (CSPs) – this will be approximately three minutes of footage which could come from any part of either of the television programmes and which can test any area of the theoretical framework. Students will be given two minutes to read the question paper before the screening. This will allow them to identify which aspects of the theoretical framework/contexts of the media they should focus on. The clip will be shown twice, with a five-minute break between viewings. Students should make notes during both screenings and should start writing their answers as soon as the second viewing has finished.

Since the AO weighting in this paper is more towards analysis and discussion, students should expect a slight bias towards questions which focus on a more critical application of the theoretical framework to products in relation to contexts of media, although knowledge and understanding will also be tested in several questions. Most of the questions will assess either AO1 or AO2 discretely rather than in combination. The extended response questions will assess both AO1 and AO2 (except question 5, which will assess AO2 only).

Students should be taught to ‘decode’ the questions in order to identify which assessment objectives a particular question is focusing on and what an examiner will be looking for. The mark schemes included within the SAMs are very clear about which aspects of the framework specific questions cover. Questions beginning with ‘what’, ‘why’, ‘state’ or ‘explain’ will generally require students to meet AO1 and will involve demonstration of detailed knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework as well as contexts of production in order to access the higher mark levels. Answers should focus on presentation of that knowledge and understanding in a clear, unambiguous manner, which may refer to specific products or broader aspects of the theoretical framework.

Questions beginning with ‘analyse’, ‘to what extent’ or ‘how’ will generally require students to meet AO2 and usually involve application of the theoretical framework and contexts of production to particular products in a critical and consistent manner in order to access the higher mark levels. It is crucial that students are encouraged to use specialist media terminology correctly throughout the paper, since this is a

requirement of the higher mark levels. Students should refer directly and in detail to the product, theory, context or element of the framework outlined in the question.

Question types

The paper will contain a range of questions, some with sub-questions. Questions will require responses of a variety of lengths, including short-response, medium-response and extended response answers. At least one of the questions will be focused solely on application of knowledge and understanding to the screened extract. Questions both in Section A and Section B will require extended response answers and will be marked on quality of written response as well as content. At least one extended response question will also include a synoptic element and will require students to apply knowledge and understanding developed throughout the course. Students should be encouraged to be prepared to respond to any of the specified media forms using any of the question types.

Short-response questions will usually require students to demonstrate knowledge of a specific feature of a product or of a particular concept from within one of the areas covered by the theoretical framework. Such questions will normally be worth two marks, so answers should go beyond simple statements. Questions 01.1 and 03 in the SAMs demonstrate this form of question.

There are likely to be two medium-response questions, both within Section A and both focusing on the screened extract from one of the television CSPs. These questions will require students to present detailed responses focusing on the ways in which the chosen clip from the television CSP demonstrates an element or elements of the theoretical framework in relation to contexts of media. Students should be prepared to answer questions focusing on any aspect of the theoretical framework (for example, questions in the SAMs focus on narrative and genre, both elements of media language). They should be clear that all points made must directly relate to the extract. Students should therefore be taught how to make notes on short extracts from the television CSPs as part of their broader study of this form. Questions will be marked out of eight and 12 marks. Questions 01.2 and 01.3 in the SAMs provide examples.

The extended response questions between them assess both AO1 and AO2 and all require students to draw judgements and to come to conclusions. However, students should be aware of a slight difference in focus between the questions.

Questions may sometimes assess both AO1 and AO2. These will require students to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of specific aspects of the theoretical framework (representation in the SAMs) or media contexts as well as make judgements and draw conclusions. Question 02 in the SAMs focuses on contexts of the media while question 04 focuses on the theoretical framework. Both questions require critical judgement to be demonstrated through direct knowledge of the specified CSPs and theoretical framework or media contexts (although students will need to be able to apply all contexts across the CSPs).

Synoptic questions (question 05 in the SAMs) will require a holistic response, focused on the specified product(s) providing the starting point for a broader discussion of the theoretical framework. Students will need to be taught how to consider products through confident application of all aspects of the theoretical framework and media contexts in order to present an astute critical analysis of the specified media form/product. The mark scheme for this question is very specific about how responses must be crafted in order to achieve marks in the top levels. Answers that do not demonstrate application of knowledge, skills and/or understanding from across the full course of study or which do not demonstrate a line

of reasoning that is coherent, relevant, sustained and logically structured cannot be marked in the top bands.

Students should present detailed, critical, sustained and well-supported arguments within all three extended response questions, but they should be aware that question 05 requires a clear application of the theoretical framework and media contexts as an analytical tool. Extended response questions will generally be based on statements or assertions based on elements of the theoretical framework and/or contexts of the media which the student will be encouraged to discuss. Students should be aware that all of the marks are based on AO2. They do not need to agree with the assertion or statement; they must present a compelling argument which is backed up by their broader knowledge of the theoretical framework as well as knowledge and understanding of the relevant media form(s)/CSP(s) and associated contexts. Prompts will be given, based both on the products and students will need to make sure that these are referred to within their answers since this is a requirement of the questions. All extended response questions will have high tariff marks.

Section A – Television

Questions in this section will only cover television as a media form.

Before writing their answers, an extract from one of the CSPs (approximately three minutes in length) will be screened. Students will spend a total of approximately fifteen minutes making notes on this screening. Before the extract is screened, students will be given two minutes to read through the question paper. The extract will be screened twice, with a five-minute break between viewings. Students should take notes during both screenings and during the break. Students will begin writing their answers as soon as the second screening has finished. This time is included within the one hour 30 minutes allocated to the exam.

There are likely to be two questions in this section.

The first question will have three sections, one requiring short-response and two requiring medium response answers. Medium-response answers will focus on the extract from one of the television CSPs. Questions may focus on any element of the theoretical framework and/or contexts of the media. Both questions will involve analysis and at least one question will require students to make judgements and draw conclusions.

The second question will require an extended response answer. This question may cover any context of the media and will probably require reference to both television CSPs. As noted above, this question will require students to make judgements and draw conclusions as well as demonstrating knowledge and understanding.

Section B – Newspapers or Online, Social and Participatory media and Video Games

Questions in this section will test **either** of the following forms:

- newspapers
- online, social and participatory media and video games.

There are likely to be three questions – one short-response answer question and two extended response questions. Questions will focus on the CSPs from one of the two forms identified above.

The extended response questions will require discussion of at least one product in the context of a broader awareness of the media form. Both questions will require

students to make judgements and draw conclusions. The final question is synoptic and will require students to refer to ideas developed throughout the course.