

ESSENTIAL VCE MEDIA TERMS

CROSS STUDY SPECIFICATIONS

Media products are the consumable output designed by media creators and producers.

Media forms include Moving image, Still image, Audio, Print, Digital, Convergent or hybridised media.

Media technologies: Analogue and digital technologies used in the creation, visualisation, planning, production, distribution, consumption and reception of media products.

Media narratives describe fictional and non-fictional media stories in all media forms. In narratives the term 'story' refers to all events that contribute to the narrative.

Media production process: development, pre production, production, post production, distribution.

Other key words include (but are not limited to): Ideologies, Ideological Contexts, Institutional Contexts, Narrative, Reception Context, Audience, Engagement, Media Characteristics, Emerging, Dominant, Oppositional Values.

MEDIA CODES

Symbolic Codes

Setting, Mise En Scene, Acting, Colour

Technical Codes

Camera, Editing, Audio, Lighting

Written Codes

Printed

Spoken

Conventions

Rules or generally accepted ways of constructing form and informing meaning in media products including **story principles, form and structure, generic structures, character and story arcs, cause and effect, point of view, the structuring of time, elements of page layout, paper stock for print, titles and credits sequences, hyperlinking and mounting and framing of images.**

Decoding the Question:

ABCPE

Annotate the action word

Brackets around different parts of the question

Count the marks

Plan your answer in the margin using key words

Evidence e.g. using codes & Conventions/key scenes/specific moments link back to the question

Identify, Describe, Explain

Identify the code, convention or example.

Describe it concisely but with elevated language.

Explain the impact/effect on audience and WHY you are using this example.

Analytical Words and Phrasing

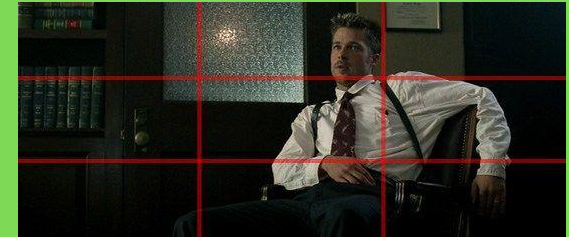
Consumes, Reads, Constructs, Manipulates

This suggests that ... For instance in the scene

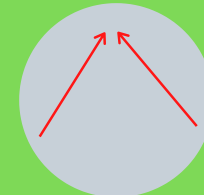
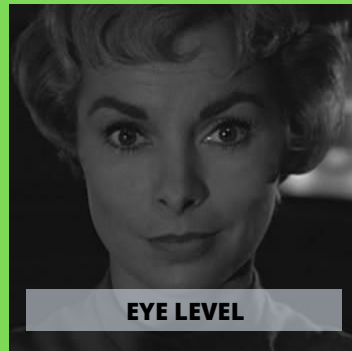
... Positioning the audience to feel ... convey

meaning by ... The audience reads this as ...

ESSENTIAL VCE MEDIA TERMS



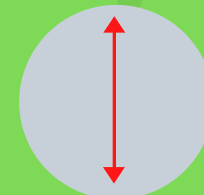
RULE OF THIRDS



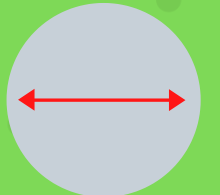
ZOOM



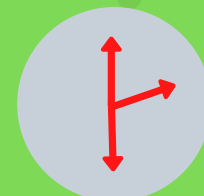
360-DEGREE



TILT



PAN



DOLLY/CRANE



HAND HELD

SHOTS

ANGLES

MOVEMENT

WORDS TO IMPRESS

words to describe creation:

manipulates
constructs
creates

words to describe editing:

juxtaposed
b-roll
transitions
montage
pacing
non linear

words to describe lighting:

back light
key light
chiaroscuro
fill light
rim light
rembrandt

negative review:

unimpressed
mundane
unimaginative
cliche

words to describe audience effect:

impact
result
desired effect

positive review:

insightful
powerful
imaginative
thought-provoking
challenging
layered

words to describe sound:

volume
pitch
rhythm
pace/speed
sustain
decay

words to describe mise en scene:

representative
detailed
colourful

words to describe scharacter:

charismatic
intriguing
ominous

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THESE WORDS MEAN?

THIS LIST IS IN NO WAY CONCLUSIVE.
IT SHOULD BE USED AS A STARTING
POINT.

RECOMMENDED PHRASING

The film

is the dramatic/thought-provoking story of ...
has a circular structure, beginning with ... and ending with ...

The director ...

aims to achieve a certain effect by ...
uses ... to underline/emphasise ...
draws the viewer's attention to ...
tries to convey a certain impression
creates a mood
provides information about ...

Narrative structure

non-linear/fragmented narrative
ensemble film
plot structure
The plot contains several cleverly woven together storylines.

The opening sequence

shows/presents/mirrors/reveals ...
captures the atmosphere
conveys the setting
portrays the characters

Camera operations

describe characters indirectly
show a character's emotions
draw attention to ...

The camera

is at a great distance from .../is very close to ...
shoots from a high/low angle.
pulls back
moves in/closes in on ...
cranes up over ...
fades in on .../fades out from ...
pans from left to right
tilts up/down
zooms in on/zooms out from ...
cuts from ... to ...

Camera distance and camera perspective

The director uses a long shot of the setting.
The ... shot establishes where the action is about to take place.
The close-up is used to focus attention on .../reveals the character's feelings/makes the situation more intimate.
... uses a lot of close-ups.
... is shown in a close-up so we can see the reaction in her face when ...
The director uses a high-angle shot of .../a helicopter shot of ...
...
We see a low-angle shot/high-angle shot of the characters.
... are presented in a low-angle shot/high-angle shot.
This shot is taken from a bird's eye view/worm's eye view.
... is/are filmed from above/below.
The scene is shot from ...'s point of view/... is seen from the perspective of ...
The over-the-shoulder shots include the viewers in the action.
The POV shots make the audience experience the (emotional) perspective of a character.
There is a tracking shot as the camera follows ...
... uses a fade-in
...
The hand-held camera underlines .../gives the scene an unsteady quality/aims at authenticity

Mise-en-scène

The person living in this room is characterized by the items shown by ...

A visual symbol ...

stands for ...
takes on a deeper meaning
signals/symbolises/visualises ...
represents ...

Sound/music

The ... suggests that ...
The rhythmic/.../... background music contributes to the atmosphere of ...
The lyrics suggest ...
The effect of this scene is enhanced by the music.
The scene is accompanied by soft/alarms/melancholic music.
There is a voice-over.
The soundtrack contributes to the mood/atmosphere of the scene.
The non diegetic sound / the music provides an extra feeling of tension/adds to the atmosphere.
The sound sets the scene/builds tension/acts as cue/finishes the scene/...
The soundtrack provides an atmosphere of .../contributes to the somber atmosphere/...
The diegetic sound of ... can be heard.
Continuous background music bridges ...
... Music can be upbeat/gloomy/aggressive/slow/fast-paced/

Lighting

low-key lighting
shot into light
backlighting
bright light ... makes the scene seem (un)realistic,
...
gives the scene a ... quality
Lighting in the scene of.....is used to enhance the sense of ...

Editing

The pace of the film is slowed down/accelerated by ...
slow motion
cross-cuttings
match cuts

RECOMMENDED PHRASING

Kind of film (genre)

drama
action film
thriller
social thriller
comedy

Producer

produced by

...

Director

a film directed by

...

to develop
a story
well-directed
expertly directed.

Screenplay/script

... from

a screenplay by

...

multi-layered script
screenwriter

...

The script was written by

...

... co-writes

...

...’s writing is astonishing/plausible/witty
tightly written

give characters the opportunity to

...

Setting/atmosphere

is set in

...

The story unfolds in

...

... provides the setting for

...

create

a certain atmosphere/mood

Actors/characters

exceptional performance

fervently performed, well acted ... does a

very good job as ...

The performances in

... are excellent.

... gives the part much personality ... adds a

lot to the film ... is absolutely

remarkable/especially memorable as

...

... is very/less convincing

...

The most complex/incredibly played
character is that of

...

newcomer a film full of wonderful

characters

appealing, fascinating, funny, stereotypical,

two-dimensional,

warm-hearted

Dialogue

melodramatic

(un)convincing

realistic

Plot/story

amusing, boring, clichéd, confusing,
entertaining, exciting,

melodramatic, thrilling, unbelievable

arouse curiosity

full of tension

build up to/reach

a climax

develop

a story

interlocking stories/fragmented narrative/non-
linear narrative

unexpected plot twists

One of the most surprising moments in the film

occurs when

...

Music/soundtrack

The music conveys a

sad/happy/melancholy atmosphere

The music underlines a mood/evokes

feelings/shows a character’s

emotions/connects scenes

The music and the lyrics support the plot.

**THESE...
& SO MUCH
MORE**

Adjectives you could use

**action-packed, amusing, badly acted, balanced, beautiful, (extremely)
boring, breathtaking, captivating, compelling, complex,
(totally/slightly)**

**confusing, contrived, disappointing, enigmatic, enjoyable, entertaining,
exciting, fantastic, (totally/rather) far-fetched, (truly) fascinating,
funny,**

**gripping, hilarious, humorous, inspiring, lousy, manipulative,
masterful,**

**perfect, poignant, powerful, (un)realistic, ridiculous, romantic,
overacted,**

**overrated, overwhelming, (im)perfect, predictable, provocative, silly,
stupid, surprising, super, tense, unbelievable, unoriginal, (highly)
uplifting**