A-level Media Studies
Summer Work 2026

Task 1 - Paper 1

Newspapers

Mr O'Connor

Using one or both of the websites below to find up-to-date front covers, complete the research table on the following slide for each of the listed British newspapers.

[Sky News - The Papers]

[BBC News - The Papers]

Your research will be broken into three tasks for each newspaper…

1) A **deconstruction** of a front cover, using **semiotic analysis.** Link to your slides in the grid (see my example for The Mirror as guidance)

1) A brief overview of the **ideology** of each newspaper.

   Use this article to guide you - https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/articles-reports/2017/03/07/how-left-or-right-wing-are-uks-newspapers

1) Use this Statista News Research page to find out the daily readership for both Online & Print for each paper. This Wikipedia page is also a good source for basic information about print circulation.

   Use this Statista search page to find articles breaking down the 2019-20 basic audience demographics for each U.K paper. *(Note - remember all figures are monthly, in 1,000s, and you might need to go to the next search page tab)*

Name of Paper	**Deconstruction of front cover**	**Ideology** (Political & General)	**Target Audience & Circulation**
The Daily Mail			
The Guardian			
The Sun			
The Telegraph			

Name of Paper	**Deconstruction of front cover**	**Ideology** (Political & General)	**Target Audience & Circulation**
The Daily Mirror	Deconstruction of Daily Mirror 16th June 21	The Daily Mirror is a left-wing red-top tabloid, that often holds quite populist viewpoints. The Mirror has always been historically supportive of the Labour party, and hence shares many of its ideals in terms of economics, state involvement and law making. The Mirror might be seen as sensationalist. This is when stories are highly partisan and often colloquial in nature.	*The Daily Mirror* is read by more **women** than **men**, although this isn't a definitive statistic. The newspaper is read primarily by adults over the age of 35. This seems to be a trend across most print media and news. *The Daily Mirror* has a print circulation of 277,550 daily copies.

Title (Masthead)
Denotation: This is a bold, white **sans serif font** on top of a red background.
Connotation: It adds to the **branding** of the newspaper. It helps define the **genre.**

Main Headline & Standfirst
Denotation: A large, bold headline, using a pun.

Connotation: It adds to the **branding** of the newspaper. It helps define the **genre.** The story seems to be bad news a negative news story about delaying opening up from lockdown.

Main Splash
Denotation: A main image of an England football player. There are flags of the main U.K. countries taking part in an international tournament.

Connotation: This story takes up the largest section of the newspaper front cover - we can assume then it holds high importance.

It seems to be a sport story, which are usually on the back page. It also makes reference to the weather, utilising two British pastimes together.

Further Reading **Mr O'Connor** **Newspapers**

1) **(Media Audiences)** This article from The Guardian/Yougov (although slightly out of date) has some interesting psychographic information about the typical readers of each paper.

   https://www.theguardian.com/media/yougov-polling-blog/2014/nov/18/yougov-profiles-the-nations-newspaper-readers

1) **(Media Audiences)** This broader study, by the Office of Communications, has fantastic insights into how the news is changing. Read ahead to have a great platform for when we study online news

   https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0013/201316/news-consumption-2020-report.pdf

1) **(Media Industries)** The fantastic documentary, The Rise of the Murdoch Dynasty is available on iPlayer. Try and watch it before it leaves!

   https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000kxvz/the-rise-of-the-murdoch-dynasty-series-1-1-kingmaker

1) **(Media Audiences)** Pamco is a fantastic resource for finding up to date information on audience demographic information. The website is a bit hard to navigate, but can help you find information on all the main UK newspapers.

Task 2 - Paper 1

Advertising

Mrs Redstone

Research on music videos:

(Write up this work on a separate Google Doc or Word Document)

Can you find 5 facts on the following types of music videos:

Narrative music videos

Performance music videos

Pick one performance music video and answer the following questions:

What do you think are the main messages in the video?

How is the artist being portrayed? Can you try and bring in camera shots and editing/background/clothing/lighting techniques if you can.
Hint - you could use the camera shots on slide 12 to help you with this!

How do you think the music video promotes the artist and builds up a successful relationship with their audience?

Watch the Corinne Bailey Rae 'Stop Where You Are' music video and answer the questions above. This is one of our key texts.

Corinne Bailey Rae - Stop Where You Are (Official Video)

Task 3 - Media Studies Glossary

This glossary can be added to, updated and used as a revision resource throughout your course of study. You should start to define the words that you are already familiar with, and can use online sources to find definitions for the rest. Highlight those that you know in green, and those that are new in a different colour.

Basic Media Terminology	Definition	Basic Media Terminology	Definition
Antagonist		**Ideology**	
Archetype		**Institution**	
Target Audience		**Narrative**	
Connotation		**Protagonist**	
Conventional		**Realism**	
Denotation		**Representation**	
Genre		**Stereotype**	

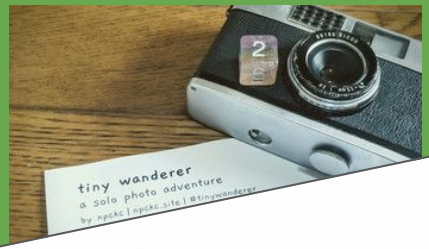
Task 3 - Media Studies Glossary

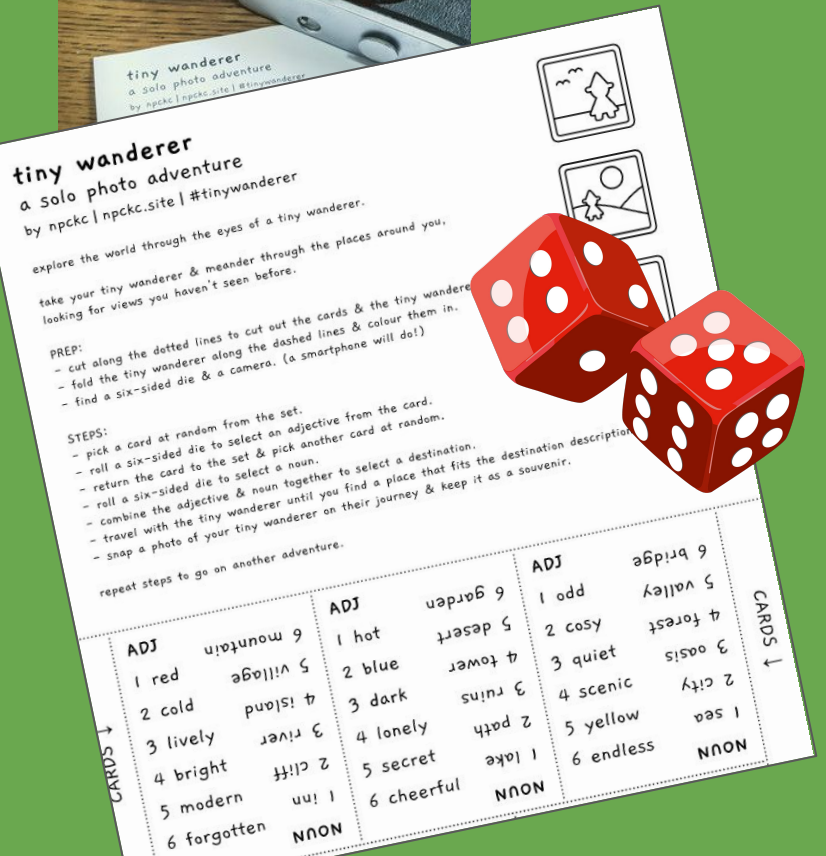
AV Media Terminology	Definition	Newspaper Terminology	Definition
Close-up Shot		Masthead	
Medium Shot		Headlines	
Long/Wide Shot		Typography	
Tracking shot		Image-to-text ratio	
Panning/tilting shot		Serif/Sans serif	
Editing		Anchorage	
Transitions		Inverted Pyramid Structure	

Task 4 - Cinematography

Videogames (kind of!)

Mr O'Connor





Tiny Wanderer is a game created by npckc. I encountered this at the NowPlayThis gaming expo at Somerset House early in 2023.

For this task, I simply want you to play the game, except also think about how to **frame your shots!**

I have included a short guide of some key shots you can try.

Tiny Wanderer gives you an idea about how **ludology** and gaming isn't simply tied up in how we might conventionally view 'videogames'. Hopefully this will still be in the memory for our study of videogames, and *Animal Crossing: Horizons* in Y13!

Tiny Wanderer Website - https://npckc.itch.io/tiny-wanderer

Task 4 - Cinematography (Videogames… kind of!)

Whilst you take your tiny wanderer on their adventures, I would like you to try and weave it into a mini story.

I do not mind if you occasionally stray from the dice rolls, as long as you show me some nice **framing of shots** & consideration of **mise-en-scene.**

Arrange your shots into the following series of slides. Explain briefly how it fits in with the **narrative** of their journey. Complete **at least 4 different shots**, but you can do more if you wish!

Added bonus points for **intertextuality** (references to famous films/TV Shows or other Visual media!)

Shot Type & Setting	Tiny Wanderer
Eg. Wide/Long Shot in Secret Ruins. The Tiny Wanderer starts in the secret ruins. They Hero's Journey begins here…	

Task 4 - Cinematography (Videogames… kind of!)

Shot Quick Guide

Establishing - the first shot at the start of a scene		***Close Up*** - face or object fills the frame	
Long - shows the full body of a characters		***Extreme Close Up*** - zooms into a specific detail	
Medium Long - cuts the character off at legs or waist		***Over The Shoulder*** - camera positioned behind the subject's shoulder	
Medium Close Up - shows head and shoulders		***Two Shot*** - two characters positioned in frame (side by side or facing each other)	

Low Angle - looking up at the subject	
High Angle - looking down at the subject	

Task 5 - Media Diary

If you are going to be a student of Media Studies, you are going to (Shock! Horror!) have to enjoy watching some different types of media. It is understandable if you can't fill all of these out (for example if you don't have a games console - but give it a go!)

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Media Platform	Name of series/film/game/song etc	Brief Review
Film		
Videogame		
Television		
Music Video		
Social Media		
Radio Show		