

GCE A LEVEL



WJEC Eduqas GCE A LEVEL in FILM STUDIES

COMPONENT 2

Global filmmaking perspectives:
Film movements - Student Resource
EXPERIMENTAL FILM (1960–2000)



Component 2: Global filmmaking perspectives: Film movements
Section C: Silent Cinema and Section D: Experimental Film (1960–2000)

Introduction to Film Movements Student Resource

In this short section, we will introduce you to the study of film movements in preparation for your study of silent cinema and experimental film

Task: What are film movements?

In small groups, discuss the following questions (you may conduct some research online and/or from film studies text books to help you answer these questions):

- What is your understanding of a film movement?
- What are some of the most influential film movements in cinema history?
- How do film movements differ from definitions of genre or national cinema?

Task: Research report on chosen film movements

Read this definition of film movements by Patrick Phillips (Principal Examiner for WJEC A Level Film Studies). Highlight the key words:

“A film movement is constituted by a distinctive body of films, each directed by an auteur. It is often further constituted by a related body of critical or theoretical writing. A film movement will be of significance in film history because of thematic and formal/stylistic innovations which characterise the films and which are, most often, a response to wider political, social or cultural changes at a particular time and in a particular place.”

Research the two film movements you will be studying in class: one for silent cinema and one for experimental film. The movements are as follows:

Silent cinema:

American silent film comedy (Buster Keaton compilation)

German Expressionism (Sunrise or Spione)

Constructivism and montage (Strike or Man with a movie camera **and** A propos de Nice)

Experimental film:

Postmodern film: American New Hollywood of the 1990s (Pulp Fiction)

Postmodern film: Hong Kong New Wave (Fallen Angels)

Postmodern Film: Digital Experimental (Timecode)

European avant-garde: French New Wave (Vivre sa vie)

European avant-garde: Czech New Wave (Daisies AND Saute ma ville)

Using Patrick Phillips’ definition, produce a research report on each chosen film movement by which covers the following areas:

- A description of the film movement with key characteristics, country of origin and time period
- The key auteurs of the movement and their auteur signatures
- Key critical or theoretical writing which underpins the movement. Summarise key manifestos/aims/theories of the movement. To what was the movement a response? Consider the cultural, political and social changes of the particular time and place of the film movement.