

GCE A LEVEL



WJEC Eduqas GCE A LEVEL in  
FILM STUDIES

COMPONENT 2

Night Fishing (Park, Korea, 2011)

ANALYSIS SHEET FOR EVALUATIVE  
COMMENTARY



**Night Fishing (Park, Korea, 2011) - Analysis Sheet for Evaluative Commentary**

**Part 1: Brief Reference**

What did you like about the film?	What didn't you like?
What ideas could you use? Narrative or style?	What ideas won't you use? Why?

**Part 2: In-Depth Study - Narrative**

<b>Narrative Feature</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Your own example</b>
<b>Establishing protagonist</b> - what information do we find out? How is it conveyed?	The fisherman isn't introduced for the first few minutes (which more resembles a music video). When he does appear, he is filmed from behind or from his POV. Camera 'lurks' above him or across the water, as if something is observing him (reinforced by eerie sound effects). The props of his multiple fishing rods and use of dissolves make him appear expert and patient.	Why do you think the director chose to introduce the protagonist in this obtuse fashion?
<b>Establishing other characters</b> - what information do we find out? How is it conveyed?	The woman snagged in his fishing lines is like a corpse at first. As he becomes more tangled, his panicked actions tug the woman's arms towards him, making her seem like she's trying to grab him. When she ends up on top of him, it seems more like a result of his own panic than her attacking him. But when she coughs up water, we realise she isn't dead at all. The next shot is of the two, in swapped clothes, with the man propped up and this - along with the shot of her untangling the lines from the man, and her offering him food - shows she isn't the vengeful spirit we assumed	What impression do you get of the woman when the narrative swaps to the ceremony? (If you watch the unsubtitled version, what impression do you get?)
<b>Establishing location (time and place)</b> - what information do we find out? How is it conveyed?	The landscape is crepuscular and dimly lit, almost purgatorial; the costumes of the band are black and funereal. Both are hints to the fisherman's true status.	

<p><b>Creating Enigmas</b> - what are they? How are they created?</p>	<p>The floating hat, canted/upside down camera angle and 'lurking' POV shots make us wonder if there will be a supernatural element. Finding the woman's body immediately raises questions about her identity and circumstances of death. Her puppet-like movement created by the man's panic also makes us wonder if she is actually dead.</p>	<p>When the woman talks to the fisherman as a 'ghost', what assumptions did you make about the story?</p>
<p><b>Narrative binary oppositions</b></p>	<p>Death (afterlife) and Life. Also, loneliness/solitude in the first half vs. companionship/family in the second.</p>	
<p><b>Crisis</b> - how was this conveyed?</p>	<p>Finding the woman's body. First shown as a catch on the line, then the fisherman's frantic action, then shocked expression before we see the body ourselves - keeps us in suspense.</p>	
<p><b>Resolution</b> - is it closed or open narrative?</p>	<p>At the end, we realise the whole narrative has been one long resolution: the fisherman coming to terms with his own death, and making peace with his family. The symbolic cutting of the cloth shows the separation of living from the dead and the final shot adds closure.</p>	

**Part 3: Meaning and Effect**

<p><b>What did you think was the intention of the filmmaker(s)? Intellectual message? Emotional response?</b> The film was entirely shot on iPhone 4 and was partially an experiment in low budget filmmaking. The twist halfway through also subverts expectations of the horror genre (and particularly Japanese/Korean horror which often feature waterlogged vengeful female spirits) becoming a tale about a sorrowful male ghost's journey to peace.</p>	<p><b>How was this achieved?</b> The lurking camera, floating hat and Nick Cave-esque gothic pop song of the band - as well as the bleached-out, dim landscape - suggests this will be a horror film; the grainy quality of the iPhone footage adds to this and recalls <i>The Blair Witch Project</i> (1999) <b>Your own idea:</b></p>
<p><b>Aesthetic binary oppositions</b> Washed out colours and grainy black-and-white in 1st half contrast with bright colour in the temple-based section.</p>	<p><b>Effect of these oppositions?</b> These symbolise the purgatorial status of the fisherman's spirit in the first half, and the vivid textures and vitality of the living world in the second.</p>

**Inspirations** - what ideas did this film give you for your own short film?

<b>Establishing characters, setting, plot, theme</b>	<b>Creating enigmas</b>
<b>Narrative structure (non-/linear? Open/closed ending?)</b>	<b>Striking use of technical features</b>