

Media Transition Pack for Eduqas Media Studies A-level

Watch three films that will be key case studies for next year: *Black Panther* (2018); *I, Daniel Blake* (2016); and *Straight Outta Compton* (2015).



Black Panther

A level Component 1: Media Products, Industries and Audiences
Focus areas: Media Industries Media Contexts

PRODUCT CONTEXT

Black Panther is the 17th film in the 'Marvel Cinematic Universe', the highest-grossing film franchise in history. It was directed by Ryan Coogler (Creed) and released in February 2018. The film shows us the fictional African kingdom of Wakanda, which has avoided European colonisation and achieved a technological superiority through the use of a mineral called Vibranium. T'Challa (Chadwick Boseman) must fight a number of foes who oppose him becoming king after the death of his father.

Black Panther (T'Challa) first appeared in *Fantastic Four #62*, released July 1966. The film was produced by Marvel Studios, a famous comic book brand that is also a subsidiary of the Walt Disney Company. *Black Panther* was extremely successful, broke records for the highest opening weekend in the USA, and also performed well globally. The film has grossed well over \$1 billion worldwide, with 48% in non-US countries. It was also one of the only superhero films to be nominated for a 'Best Picture' Academy Award. It won three Oscars for Costume, Production Design, and Original Soundtrack.

Task: choose a five minute sequence from the film: write a 500 word analysis using the following headings: camerawork, editing, lighting and sound. For help on media terms visit the [Cameron Lisney's](#) guide to camerawork and editing etc.

EXTENSION: RESEARCH THE MARVEL FRANCHISE; CHOOSE ANOTHER FILM TO WATCH.



I, Daniel Blake (2016)

A level Component 1: Media Products, Industries and Audiences
Focus areas: Media Industries Media Contexts

PRODUCT CONTEXT

I, Daniel Blake is an independent social realist film directed by renowned filmmaker Ken Loach (Kes, Raining Stones, Sweet Sixteen etc.). A UK/French co-production, it received funding from the BFI and BBC Films. It became Ken Loach's largest grossing film at the box office (taking over \$8 million), was highly critically acclaimed and generated much debate due to the contemporary social and political issues addressed in the film. I, Daniel Blake was exhibited at many film festivals, won the Palme d'Or at Cannes, and was nominated for many awards including several BAFTAs.

I, Daniel Blake addresses contemporary British social issues such as poverty, the welfare system and the Work Capability Assessment. The film portrays a group of traditionally underrepresented characters in Newcastle struggling in poverty to gain benefits and support. I, Daniel Blake conveys a clear left-wing political message and criticises specific government policies. Consideration of the wider economic context and concept of "austerity" might be useful in exploring how changes to benefit policy had been justified. Much of Ken Loach's work has addressed similar issues (Cathy Come Home, Raining Stones) and he is a social campaigner, known for his socialist political views. This is important to consider in terms of film production and maintaining audiences (arguably the intended audience for this film is educated, media literate and socially aware).

Task: Imagine you are working on the Ken Loach. Come up with an idea for a new social realist film: write the dialogue for the opening scene. For help look at the [Media Insider](#) for guidance on how to set out a screenplay.

EXTENSION: RESEARCH KEN LOACH; CHOOSE ANOTHER FILM OF HIS TO WATCH.

N.W.A

The World's Most Dangerous Group



Straight Outta Compton (2015)

A level Component 1: Media Products

Focus areas: Media Industries Media Contexts

PRODUCT CONTEXT

Straight Outta Compton is a biopic, produced by Legendary Pictures, distributed by Universal Pictures and directed by F. Gary Gray. The film follows the story of hip hop band N.W.A. in 1980s America. Members of the band (Ice Cube and Dr. Dre) were co-producers. The film was a huge commercial and critical success, became the highest grossing music biopic of all time, and was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay.

The film portrays events set predominantly in mid-1980's California, USA. The depiction of this period in a contemporary film may have been impacted by the social upheaval caused by the racial tension and the LA Riots in 1992 (the portrayal of 1980's California, and the possible glorification of N.W.A. as agents of social change, may have been revised or influenced by subsequent events). N.W.A. were significant in terms of social change as advocates for free speech, producers of protest songs and as highly successful black men from disenfranchised American urban communities. N.W.A. were also heavily criticised for their misogynistic lyrics and their promotion of a lifestyle that objectified and marginalised women.

Task: Visit the [Media Insider](#) for a guide to the work of Media Theorist Judith Butler and her work on gender. Write 500 words explaining how gender is portrayed in Straight Outta Compton.

EXTENSION: RESEARCH THE CATEGORY OF HIP HOP MOVIES OR MUSIC BIOPICS; WATCH ANOTHER.