

# 11. Comparative study student handout

## PDF HANDOUT

### The task

Identify, select and research each of the following task components and present your discoveries as a recorded multimedia comparative study.

1. One area of film focus.
2. Two films for comparison from within the chosen area of film focus, one of which originates from a contrasting time (historical) or space (geographical) to your own personal context, and the other film identified for comparison must arise from a contrasting cultural context to the first film. You must select films that you have not previously studied in depth. The selected films cannot come from the prescribed list of film texts provided for the textual analysis assessment task and, once selected, you cannot use the films for any other assessment task for the DP film course or the extended essay.
3. A clearly defined topic for a recorded multimedia comparative study, which links both the selected films and the identified area of film focus. You must provide a strong justification for the choice of task components as part of the recorded multimedia comparative study. This includes your justification for how the films arise from contrasting cultural contexts.

### Key terminology

#### Task components

For this task, you must select an area of film focus that interests and excites you from one of the following.

- Film movements (such as French New Wave, German expressionism, Third Cinema, and so on)
- Film genre and film style (such as film noir, romantic comedy, science fiction, Western, and so on)
- Film theory (such as auteur theory, feminism, Marxist film theory, and so on)

#### Cultural context

For this assessment task, "cultural context" involves consideration of some of the following factors, some of which may be blended (such as socio-economic factors).

Economic	Geographical	Historical	Institutional
Political	Social	Technological	

### What you submit for assessment

- a. A recorded multimedia comparative study (10 minutes maximum).
- b. A list of all sources used.

## Formatting your work

- The comparative study must contain a recording of your voice throughout, introducing the study and justifying the chosen topic and selected films, as well as providing the commentary for the main body of the work.
- You must not appear on screen at any time.
- On-screen text, keynote slides, still images, animations, audio recordings and carefully selected and relevant clips from the selected films are all permitted within the comparative study, where appropriate.
- The primary weight of audio-visual material must come from the two chosen films and your recorded voice (film clips should directly match the point being made by your recorded commentary). You must use legal copies of your two chosen films in order to extract the video and/or audio content for editing into the comparative study.
- The comparative study must begin with a 10-second black slate (included in the total time limit) that clearly states the chosen task components using on-screen text. Your recorded commentary, which begins simultaneously with the black slate) should address the justification of these task components.
- You should adopt a formal, academic register. You may speak in the first person, as appropriate, and present your own personal opinion and perspective as a film student.
- Your recorded voiceover must be clear and audible, and any text used must be legible when viewed on screen.

## Academic honesty

All sources must be acknowledged following the protocol of the referencing style chosen by your school. If you use work, ideas or images belonging to another person, this source must be acknowledged as an on-screen citation during the comparative study, either as a voiced reference or as part of the recorded commentary or as on-screen text.

## What the examiner is looking for

### Task components

**12 marks**

For assessment, you need to:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the components selected for study (the area of film focus, the two films and the topic), which includes the cultural context of the selected films and your justification of why you chose these task components for the comparative study
- support your work with a suitable range of relevant sources.

### Comparing and contrasting

**12 marks**

For assessment, you need to:

- compare and contrast the selected films, making links to the chosen topic
- support the work with accurate film vocabulary.

## **Assembling the comparative study**

**8 marks**

For assessment, you need to:

- assemble the comparative study in a clear, logical, audible and visually appropriate manner
- provide an equal treatment of the two films you've selected for study.

This is a condensed overview of the comparative study assessment task and may not contain all of the necessary requirements for success in this task. For full details of the task, please refer to the DP *Film guide* (2017).