

Step up to A' Level Media Studies

This is a menu of tasks to help you get ready to study Media at A' Level. Try to choose a 'balanced diet' of activities each week to ensure variety in your learning. Keep your completed work organised in a folder so that you can submit your transition work during your first Media lesson.



Short Video Clips (less than 10 minutes)

Each of these clips offers context for the course. Write down any key details they reveal or inferences you can make from them. List questions the clips raise that you would like to understand more about (aim for 3)?

Becky Fisher – Roland Barthes
[Media Studies - Roland Barthes' Semiotic Theory - Simple Guide for Students And Teachers - YouTube](#)



Becky Fisher – David Gauntlett
[Media Studies - Gauntlett's Identity Theory - Simple Guide for Students and Teachers - YouTube](#)



Becky Fisher – Stuart Hall
[Media Studies - Stuart Hall's Representation Theory - Simple Guide For Students & Teachers - YouTube](#)



Longer Video Clips, Films or Documentaries

These videos will get you thinking even more about Media issues. Select one video, record the key points of context or information that you found significant, alongside 5 subsequent questions that the video has spawned.

Black Lives Matter Documentary
[YouTube](#)



Bobo Doll Experiment -The Dark Side of Science
[The Dark Side of Science: The Bobo Doll Experiment 1963 \(Short Documentary\) - YouTube](#)



The First Blog
[YouTube](#)



Programmes and Podcasts

There is a huge array of Media Studies radio programmes and podcasts available. If you do not have a podcast app, or cannot sign in to BBC Sounds, this would be your first thing to remedy. Below are a few stretching and informative programmes for you to enjoy. Make notes on ½ page of A4 about what you have learnt about the topic of each programme and which opinions you agree with and why.

Have you heard Georges Podcast
[BBC Sounds - Have You Heard George's Podcast? - Available Episodes](#)



The Media Show
[BBC Sounds - The Media Show - Available Episodes](#)



Woman's Hour
[BBC Radio 4 - Woman's Hour - Available now](#)



Questions to Consider

The questions below are designed to get you thinking more broadly about some of the underlying issues within the course we study in Year 12. Choose a question and try discussing it with somebody else. Then write 500 words exploring different possible responses and explaining your own opinions.

Media companies tend to favour the majority.

Women are portrayed in media to satisfy the male gaze.

News companies say they are impartial but they tend to favour particular sides.



Debate

Task: Read the linked page regarding postcolonial theory in the media and complete the activities below.





Summarise the key ideas presented by answering the question below:

What impact has globalisation had on postcolonialism?

How can media narratives be decolonised?

What is the ongoing relevance Of postcolonial theory?



Books and Other Longer Reads

These books are excellent introductions to the themes we study in Media Studies. They are available to buy and download as e-books, some of them are free!

Media Theory for A Level
Mark Dixon

**Feminist perspectives
On the Media**
Lizbet Van Zoonen
(available as a free download
on google)

Elements of Semiology
Roland Barthes

