Your notes

GCSE Media Studies: revision notes

The set products: television and music

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Component 2 at a glance

- Component 2, Understanding media forms and products, is a 1 hour 30 minute exam worth 30% of the GCSE. It covers all of the theoretical framework: media language, representation, industries, audiences and contexts.
- Section A, television: one question on media language or representation, on an extract from your set episode shown in the exam, then one on industries, audiences or contexts.
- Section B, music: one question on media language or representation, then one on industries, audiences or contexts.

Section A: television (exams from 2027)

- Your school chooses one option. **Crime drama**: Trigger Point, Series 2, Episode 1 (2024, ITV), with a 10-minute extract from The Sweeney, Series 1, Episode 1 (1975, ITV).
- Or **sitcom**: Man Like Mobeen, Series 1, Episode 2, 'Wifey Riddim' (2019, BBC) or Modern Family, Season 8, Episode 2, 'A Stereotypical Day' (2017, ABC), with a 10-minute extract from Friends, Season 1, Episode 1 (1994).
- Trigger Point is an ITV drama about bomb disposal officers in London, starring Vicky McClure as Lana Washington. It was made by HTM Television, the company of Line of Duty's creator Jed Mercurio.
- The Sweeney followed the Flying Squad, a London police unit, with John Thaw and Dennis Waterman. Compare its 1970s representations of gender and policing with today's.
- Man Like Mobeen, created by and starring Guz Khan, is set in Small Heath, Birmingham: Mobeen tries to live a good Muslim life and raise his younger sister. It began on BBC Three, online, before moving to BBC One.

- Modern Family is an American **mockumentary sitcom** about an extended family; Friends was an American **sitcom** shown in the UK on Channel 4.

Section B: music (exams from 2027)

- Two contemporary music videos: Lizzo, 'Good as Hell' (2019) or Taylor Swift, 'The Man' (2020); and Stormzy, 'Superheroes' (2020) or Justin Bieber, 'Intentions' (2020).
- One music video from the past: Duran Duran, 'Rio' (1982) or TLC, 'Waterfalls' (1995).
- Online media: the websites of both contemporary artists you studied, and at least two of their **social and participatory media** platforms.
- Taylor Swift directed 'The Man' herself and appears disguised as a man, to show double standards about gender. 'Superheroes' is an animated video that celebrates young Black people. In 'Intentions', Justin Bieber highlights women supported by a charity.
- 'Rio' was filmed on a yacht in the Caribbean and sold a glamorous 1980s lifestyle for MTV. 'Waterfalls' tackled drugs and HIV and used new computer effects.
- Artists use websites and social media to build their brand, talk to fans, and sell music, tickets and merchandise.

Key terms

Crime drama	A TV genre about crimes and how they are solved, often with police or detective characters.
Sitcom	Situation comedy: a TV comedy with regular characters in a familiar setting.
Mockumentary	Fiction filmed like a documentary, with characters talking to the camera.
Social and participatory media	Online media where audiences take part, sharing, commenting and making content.
Brand identity	The image and values an artist or product is known for.

Quick questions

Cover the answers and test yourself: remembering is what makes it stick.

1. Which crime drama is the Eduqas set episode for exams from 2027?
2. Who created and stars in Man Like Mobeen?
3. Which music video from the past can be studied instead of Duran Duran's 'Rio'?
4. In which music video does the artist appear disguised as a man?
5. Which channel first showed The Sweeney?
6. What is a mockumentary?
7. Which Bieber video highlights women supported by a charity?

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8. What was new about the video for TLC's 'Waterfalls' (1995)?

Answers

1. Trigger Point
2. Guz Khan
3. TLC, 'Waterfalls'
4. Taylor Swift, 'The Man'
5. ITV
6. Fiction filmed like a documentary, with characters talking to camera
7. 'Intentions'
8. Its computer effects, and it tackled drugs and HIV

What to do next

Practise 11 questions on this topic

Try 3 exam questions, with mark schemes

Read the lesson, one step at a time

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