

EDUQAS GCSE MEDIA STUDIES · NEW TO TEACHING MEDIA?

The Deep End Starter Kit: Eduqas

Just been handed Media Studies for September? The whole course on one page, every set product mapped, and your first 30 days sorted.

Media Studies is often a second subject and a one-person department, and plenty of brilliant teachers meet it for the first time on a timetable in July. Take a breath: the Eduqas course has a clear shape, and once you can see all of it, none of it is frightening. This is the map.

The course on one page

Component 1: Exploring the Media (1 hour 30 minutes, 80 marks, 40 per cent)

Section A (45 marks) tests Media Language and Representation on print forms: magazines, film posters, newspaper front pages and print adverts. Eduqas provides copies of the Section A set products in the exam, and the big 25-mark question compares a set product with an UNSEEN product in the same form. Section B (35 marks) tests Media Industries and Audiences on newspapers, radio, film and video games, with stepped questions that start on 1-2 mark factual recall.

Component 2: Understanding Media Forms and Products (1 hour 30 minutes, 60 marks, 30 per cent)

Section A (30 marks) is television: your chosen option (crime drama or sitcom), with an extract screened in the exam room and timed note-making. Section B (30 marks) is music: two contemporary music videos, one past video, and the artists' websites and social media. Newspapers, television and music are the in-depth forms, studied through all four framework areas.

Component 3: NEA, an individual media production (60 marks, 30 per cent)

Learners respond to a WJEC brief, released on 1 March in the year before assessment: a statement of aims (10 marks), meeting the brief (20 marks) and use of media language and representation (30 marks). Marked by you, moderated by the board.

The theoretical framework: four lenses on everything

Media Language (how meaning is made: codes, conventions, semiotics), **Representation** (how people, groups and issues are shown), **Media Industries** (who makes and owns media, and why), **Audiences** (who consumes it, how and with what effect). Every question comes back to these four. The only named theorists at GCSE are Blumler and Katz (Uses and Gratifications), so the framework, not a theory list, is what you are teaching.

Every set product, mapped (2027 exams onwards)

Set products are the set texts of Eduqas Media Studies, listed in the specification and factsheets on the Eduqas website. This map shows the products for 2027 exams onwards; changes from earlier years and from 2028 are flagged in the table.

Form	Set products (2027 onwards)	Framework focus	Tested in
Magazines	Vogue (July 2021) + GQ (August 2019) front covers	Language, Representation	C1 Section A
Film posters	The Man with the Golden Gun (1974) + No Time to Die (2021)	Language, Representation	C1 Section A
Newspaper front pages	The Guardian (18 Jan 2022) + The Sun (1 Jan 2021). From 2028: The Guardian (6 May 2025) + The Sun (22 March 2025)	Language, Representation	C1 Section A
Print adverts	Quality Street (1956) + NHS 111 (2023). (2025-26 sat This Girl Can instead of NHS 111)	Language, Representation	C1 Section A
Newspapers (in-depth)	The Sun: one complete print edition (your choice) + thesun.co.uk	Industries, Audiences (all four across the course)	C1 Section B
Radio	Desert Island Discs. (2025-26 sat The Archers)	Industries, Audiences	C1 Section B
Film	No Time to Die + 007.com	Industries ONLY	C1 Section B
Video games	Fortnite + its website	Industries, Audiences	C1 Section B
Television (in-depth): pick ONE option	Crime drama: Trigger Point S2E1 (2024) + The Sweeney extract (2025-26 sat Luther). OR Sitcom: Man Like Mobeen S1E2 or Modern Family S8E2 + Friends extract	All four areas; extract screened in the exam	C2 Section A
Music (in-depth)	Two contemporary videos: (Lizzo Good as Hell OR Taylor Swift The Man) + (Stormzy Superheroes OR Justin Bieber Intentions); one past video (Duran Duran Rio OR TLC Waterfalls); both artists' websites + social media	All four areas	C2 Section B

Products rotate between exam series, so always check the current specification and set-product list on the Eduqas website against your cohort's exam year. Year 10 and Year 11 may be sitting different products.

One sensible route through the two years

There is no compulsory order: this is simply a route that builds skills in a sane sequence. Swap things freely to fit your timetable and your classes.

Year 10, autumn

Start with Component 1 Section A print forms: adverts and magazines. Single still images, quick wins, and the Language + Representation foundations everything builds on. Start the unseen-comparison habit immediately: the 25-marker compares a set product with an unseen one, so analyse two extra contrasting products per form as you go.

Year 10, spring

Film posters and the newspaper front pages complete Section A. Then move The Sun into Section B territory: ownership, the website, regulation. Diary check: the NEA brief for your cohort is released on 1 March in the year before assessment.

Year 10, summer

Component 1 Section B: Desert Island Discs, No Time to Die as industry, Fortnite. Drill the recall bank (BBFC film, Ofcom radio, PEGI games, IPSO press) - the stepped questions hand out these marks. Introduce the NEA and look at past briefs.

Year 11, autumn

NEA production, alongside your Component 2 television option with extract-screening practice: timed note-making (watch, notes, watch again) is a trainable skill.

Year 11, spring

Component 2 music: the two contemporary videos, the past video and the artists' online presence. Then whole-course revision and mocks.

Your first 30 days: the checklist

- Download the specification, sample assessment materials, past papers, mark schemes and the set-product factsheets from the Eduqas website: they are free and they are the ground truth.
- Check which set products apply to each of your cohorts: Year 10 and Year 11 can be sitting different rotations (see the map on page 2).
- Choose your Component 2 options early: crime drama or sitcom, and which artists for music. Check certificates and content against your classes before you commit (some options are cert 15).
- Source the set products themselves (the actual covers, posters, front pages, adverts and episodes): you analyse the real artefacts, not descriptions of them.
- Plan only the first half-term in detail. One form at a time: nobody teaches the whole map in September.
- Baseline your classes with one image analysis lesson: denotation, connotation, and what the maker wants you to think. That is the core skill of the whole course.
- Build the unseen-comparison habit from week one: every set product gets a contrasting partner, because the biggest question on Component 1 rewards exactly that.
- Join the subject community: teacher Facebook groups and the Media Education Association are full of people who were also once handed Media at short notice.
- Be kind to yourself. The framework repeats across every topic, so the course gets lighter every single week you teach it.

Every form in the map above has a ready-to-teach Margin Notes Eduqas unit (lessons, student booklet, model answers with marking commentary), built for exactly this moment. Search Margin Notes on Tes.