|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NAME, DESCRIBE, LINK example | Camera Techniques | Acting | Mise en scene | Editing | Lighting | Sound |
| NAME, DESCRIBE, LINK example |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Opening, developing, and resolution of the narrative |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Character development and relationships |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Point of view |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cause and effect |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Structuring of time |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Multiple storylines |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Genre |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Audience Reception |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Option 1: I need to practice being able to analyse both production and story elements.**🡪 Complete the following table separately for each film.

**Option 2: I need help responding to questions**🡪 Read these sample answers very closely. Go through and HIGHLIGHT:   
i) Orienate the scene  
ii) Naming of elements  
iii) Description using film language words  
iv) Desctiption using adjectives  
v) Links  
-- Also note the structure uses, did they have a topic sentence and a link? How did they answer the question?   
  
🡪 Create a HOW TO guide for a year 10 or 11 media student on how to answer questions in media.  
🡪 Time yourself and answer practice questions. (These can be found on the Weebly)   
  
**Question 3: Explain how one of the production elements you identified in question two, functions in the narrative of one of the texts you have studied this year.**Sample Response:  
  
*The function of Clive Owen’s acting in ‘Children of Men’ is to create the idea of a hopeless society. In the opening scene, Owen’s slumped, relaxed posture combined with his vague and sad facial expressions creates the idea that Theo doesn’t care about society, and that Theo has given up hope on redemption of society because of his nonchalant acting.*

**Question 4: Describe how a story element works together with the production element, sound, to establish genre(s) style and techniques that they may reference in the other text.**  
Sample Response:  
  
*In the film**Black Swan, Aronofsky uses combination of sound and cause and effect to construct the film as being in the psychological thriller genre. At several points in the film, a sound of rustling feathers can be heard, and the protagonist responses to this; yet there is no source of this sound sown. This internal non diegetic defies audience expectations of cause and effect- and indeed cause and effect patterns of real life- and thus suggests that Nina is seeing and hearing things that aren’t really there. Protagonists with mental health issues are a common convention of the psychological thriller genre, and thus by using a combination of cause and effect to characterize Nina as insane Aronofsky constructs the film of that genre.*

**Question 5: Explain how one the following story elements works with one production element to communicate a theme, issue, or motif in one of the narratives you have studied this year.   
 - Cause and effect  
- Structuring of time  
- Character development and relationships  
- Point of view   
5 marks**   
  
Sample response:  
  
*In Darren Aronofsky’s ‘Black Swan’, the production elements of camera techniques is used with the story element of point of view to communicate the theme of Nina’s paranoia and detachment with reality. When Nina walks home at night, shaky, hand-held POV shots from Nina’s perspective of a figure approaching create a sense of fear and paranoia and also establish that is actually Nina feeling this way. Similarly, in the closing sequence a medium shot of Nina covered in black feathers is juxtaposed with long distance POV shot from an audience member where Nina is her regular- non bird like self. This contrast demonstrates that Nina’s belief that she has transformed into the Black Swan from the ballet is not grounded in reality, as from other people’s point of view she is still a normal human, which establishes Nina as a character who is detached from the reality of the world around her. A similar display of Nina’s growing insanity and paranoia occurs when she sees her portrait’s eyes move. A POV shot from Nina’s perspective juxtaposed with a POV shot from the paintings perspective indicates not only that Nina imagined the eyes moving due to her delusional state, but also that she is imagining being watched by the paintings, which illuminates the audience to the fact that Nina is becoming expontially paranoid and delusional. Thus, Aronofsky uses camera techniques in conjunction with point of view to propagate the themes of insanity and paranoia in ‘Black Swan’.*

**Question 8: Describe how the reception context of one of the texts you have studied this year may affect the consumption of one of the narratives you studied this year.  
(4 marks)**  
*Reception context is very important when looking at any film, but particularly Children of Men given the London setting and its production era. At the start of the film, a bomb goes off, killing and injuring several people. For many viewers this would have been particularly shocking as the film came out less than 10 months after the infamous London terrorist bombings of 2005 that killed 52 civilians. Thus, to many the depiction of terror in London would have been engaging in that it seemed realistic and believable. However, to others perhaps those even personally involved in the bombings the depiction would have been extremely upsetting, scary and possibly even distasteful and due to these emotions, would be disengaged from the narrative of the film.*

**Option 3: I need to improve my ability to analyse the films**  
When in doubt bring any of your analysis back to this question  
  
 WHY HAS THE DIRECTOR CHOOSEN TO DO THIS?   
🡪 For each of these linking sentences find an example from one of the narrative texts we have studied this year. Try to use both production and story elements.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Link to an idea | Orientate a scene, Name, describe, Link | Link to audience | Orientate a scene, Name, describe, Link |
| This suggests that Nina’s mental stability is in rapid decline. |  | This allows the audience to understand the genre of the film. |  |
| This suggests that Theo is traumatized by the horror of war around him. |  | This creates a feeling of fear and paranoia for the audience. |  |
| This highlights that there is a huge discrepancy (difference) between the rich and the poor. |  | This gives hope to the audience. |  |
| This suggests that the two characters do not trust each other. |  | This engages the audience in wanting the protagonist to reach their goal. |  |
| This allows for the understanding of the extent the protagonist will go to, in order to succeed. |  | This evokes a sense of sympathy. |  |
| This emphasizes the key theme of duality. |  |  |  |
| This demonstrates the key theme of the fragile nature of the human world. |  |  |  |

**Option 4: I need help in thinking of examples from both films to analyse .  
  
Choose key** scenes from ‘Children of Men’ and ‘Black Swan’ that you will become an EXPERT in.   
You should choose scenes that allow you to discuss and analyse the following points:  
i) Production elements- both in isolation and those that work together.  
ii) Story elements- both in isolation and those that work together.  
iii) The genre and style  
iv) Audience reception- How they consume, read and engage with texts  
v) How production and story elements work together  
  
List your scenes below and include a screen shot of the scene to engage your memory, as well as production elements, story elements, genre/style analysis and audience reception analysis. Like last week look at the example below for inspiration   
  
\*\*\* IT is critical that over your scenes that **you cover off ALL production/story elements,** combinations, genre/style and audience reception, and are gfrom BOTH films. While everyone has favourite elements, this is a way to prepare for being asked about anything on the exam. Stick these completed pages up around your room and house.

**EXAMPLE: ASKING NIGEL FOR MONEY** (takes place in the development of the narrative) **Key production elements:***Choose four*

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| --- | --- |
| Production element | NDL sentence (remember to build your nominal groups!)  How does it engage the audience/establish narrative/communicate an idea? |
| Mise en scene | *The dull naturalistic lighting paired with grey floors, walls and props and abundance of empty space within the frame create Nigel’s sterile apartment to be cold and distant from the chaos of the outside world. Goya’s tragic painting ‘Guernica’ which is infamous for the depiction of pain and suffering is ignored by the characters however it dominants the shot as it becomes evident that that Cuaron aims to suggest that the elite and wealthy, that is Nigel are completely oblivious to the terrors of the outside world.* |
| Acting | *Alex is disengaged, apathetic characterisation created Westwick’s disinterested body language and his failure to make eye contact with anyone in the room, instead engrossed in his electronic device. This communicates the notion that while the youth are the most precious asset of society that are in fact spoilt and worthless human beings, once again highlighting a major flaw in the world of the narrative.* |
| Sound | When Theo first arrives at Nigel’s house, the song that has been playing non-diegetically becomes diegetic as it is crackled and muffled as though being played over a radio. This creates a cold, clinical sense in the audience as it alludes to large, impersonal spaces such as supermarkets or waiting rooms, constructing the idea that while Nigel may have lots of material items his house is devoid of love or familiarity. |
| Camera techniques | When Nigel asks Alex to take his pills and Alex doesn’t respond, a long shot from one end of the table tracks in to him very slowly, creating a subtle sense of danger in the audience that emphasises the danger faced by these young people who will be the last alive in the world. |

**Combination production elements:***Choose two combinations*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Production element 1 | Production element 2 | NDL sentence (remember to build your nominal groups!)  How does it engage the audience/establish narrative/communicate an idea? |
| Mise-en-scene | Acting techniques | The mise-en-scene of Alex’s costume in this scene would seem to most viewers to be that of a well-behaved, respectable young man as he wears a neat collared shirt, an argyle-patterned jumper and has his hair neatly combed. However, Cuaron contrasts this strongly with Westwick’s acting techniques of downcast eyes and silence that construct him to be rudely ignoring the others in the room. This suggests that the youths of Theo’s world are spoilt as they are lavished with gifts like nice clothing and yet remain totally socially disconnected. |
| Camera techniques | Sound | At the start of this scene, when Theo arrives at Nigel’s house, the previously non-diegetic sound becomes crackly and muted, as though it is playing on a radio. Cuaron creates a sound perspective in which the echo of the radio makes the space seem large and impersonal. This sense is emphasises by the camera techniques; in a few places in the scene Cuaron uses long or extreme long shots that create a plan americain effect in that they make the characters seem very small in the space they are in and thus create a sense of loneliness in Nigel’s house. This combines with the sound used to create the idea that although Nigel has a large house with many material items, ultimately he is lonely as the human race is slowly destroying itself. |

**Key story elements:***Choose two*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Story element | Production element/s that construct this story element | NDL sentence (remember to build your nominal groups!)  How does it engage the audience/establish narrative/communicate an idea? |
| Point of view | Camera techniques | In a few shots in this scene, the Cuaron uses a stuttering, moving camera to create the sense that it has been handheld, giving the audience the impression that the camera operator is in fact within the diegesis and another, unseen character from whose point of view we are seeing the film from. |
| Character | Mise-en-scene | In this scene Cuaron creates a clear contrast between the mise-en-scene of Theo’s costume and that of the props in his pocket. Where his clean, neat black suit suggests he is professional and in control the props that he pulls out of his pockets, including cigarettes, alcohol and painkillers, highlights his reliance on drugs and the earlier implication that he is struggling to cope with life. By contrasting the two, Cuaron suggests that Theo’s character might be changing and that while he may still have his flaws he is slowly becoming more responsible. |

**Link to genre/style or audience reception:**The hand-held camera effect in this scene, constructed by a moving, stuttering camera, constructs the idea that the camera is actually being controlled by another character, somebody within Theo’s world. This is a convention of the documentary genre, as documentary makers are involved in the action that they are filming, and so Cuaron suggests, that the action is real and being filmed by somebody within the diegesis. While the audience knows that this isn’t true, it still creates a sense of realism that allows them to become more engaged with the film and more drawn into it as they feel the perspective from which they are seeing the film is actually the point of view of another unseen character.

🡪 Now it’s your turn!!