10 Media Exam Revision 1

Task 1: Structure! Structure! Structure!

 DECONSTRUCTING THE QUESTION
Step 1: Read the question
Step 2: Highlight key words (key verbs, verb group, elements, etc)
Step 3: Take note of choices and restrictions the question poses
Step 4: Plan your response (choose your idea, scene)
Step 5: Write your response!

 STRUCTURING A PARAGRAPH
1. Topic sentence: 1a) Orientate the scene, 1b) Name the element/s, 1c) introduce the idea that responses to the question.
2. Describe: Using film language, describe the element.
3. Link: Link this description to 3a) WHY you think the director has constructed the element this way and how it is meant to make the 3b) AUDIENCE feel or think.

4a) Link: Link your analysis together and ensure you answer the question

Look closely at these example responses, as each answer does something wrong.
🡪 Make a note of what the response does wrong or maybe doesn’t do at all.
🡪 Rewrite or edit each so that it is correct.

**Explain how the production element lighting establishes the genre.**
In the cellar scene, the lighting is created to establish the genre of a suspenseful thriller. As Marion enters the cellar it is dark. This makes the audience fearful of what is going on and communicates the idea that something bad is going to happen. Therefore through the use of lighting Hitchcock creates the thriller genre.

**Describe how sound established the genre of ‘Psycho’.**
The sound of ‘Psycho’ is always scary and full on. It goes from complete silence or only diegetic sound suddenly to intense diegetic sound that shocks the audience and thus, this fear being a convention of the genre of a thriller makes the audience feel uncomfortable.

**Using a production element of your choice explain how an idea is communicated to the audience of ‘Psycho’.**
Mise en scene is everything that is in the frame and includes, props, colour, symbols, lighting acting and camera techniques. In the opening sequence Marion is wearing white underwear and is in a simple looking motel room during her lunch break. The camera shot size mostly stays at a mid shot and the lighting is naturalistic.

Explain how two production elements of your choice combine and contribute to the characterization of a character from ‘Psycho’.

In the shower scene editing and sound is used to create a shocking and terrifying moment that is very confronting the audience. As Marion showers there is a long take, that is a take that does not cut to anything else, as she looks up to the shower head and enjoys the water. The sound here is as expected, the simple diegetic sound of water running. However, as the murderer enters and the jolting sound of the shower curtain is ripped open the editing becomes rapid, with multiple short takes and cuts to different parts of Marion’s body. The motif of the scratching violins enhances this shock as they, like the editing are sudden. Therefore it is through the combination of sound and editing that the audience feels a complete sense of shock and terror.

Task 2: Creating key ideas.

Much of the quality of your response revolves around creating a quality idea or piece of analysis.
An easy way to remember this is by creating ‘that’ statements. These are statements about the film which state with a ‘that’.

For example:

That Norman’s insanity is created by his innocence and childlike nature.
That the film’s suspense and plot twists establish it as a thriller genre.
That the final scene leaves the audience understanding Norman’s broken mental state.
That Marion desperation to find a new life lead to her death.

🡪 Write 3-4 more ‘that’ statements. Start by moving past the literal (denotation) of the film and into the analysis (connotation). Think about what message Hitchcock was trying to send and why he constructed it the way he did.

🡪 For 3 of these that statements think of a piece of evidence from the film (a particular scene) and write a paragraph (using the expected structure) to explain how this scene, and at least one production element create this idea.