

Re: AQA GCSE in Media Studies 2017 – Topic: TV game shows

Your child is about to start to study a particular topic for their GCSE exam in May. The content of this topic is about TV game shows and your child is encouraged to watch a variety of game shows as homework topics and to provide wider study.

As these types of programmes are on during primetime TV and most likely enjoyed as a family, we would welcome your engagement and interaction with your child to support their study.

This could involve watching a different selection of TV game shows, such as BBC's *Pointless*, C4's *Countdown*, ITV's *The Chase* and *Tipping Point*, as well as the popular Saturday night shows such as *Take Me Out* and *Ninja Warrior*. It is important that they watch a variety of game shows. Things they should notice are the format and style of the show, the positioning of the host and contestants and how they interact, as well as any music or sound effects used to create tension and excitement. Other key things to discuss are the type of audience the game show is aimed at and whether there is teamwork involved or just an individual challenge.

Students are asked to choose 2 TV game shows (this **does not include** reality game shows such as *Big Brother*, *I'm A Celebrity*, *The Apprentice*) and research them in order to build a case study on each programme. The expectation of the exam questions is that students are able to answer them, whilst referring to at least 2 examples to back up their points. Their case studies will help them to do this. Therefore your child must research the following:

- the time and channel it is on,
- the type of presenters and guests they have on (stereotypes, countertypes, archetypes),
- the colours used on the set,
- when music is used,
- the type of sponsorship they have and
- where the programme is advertised i.e. on the internet, billboards, other forms of e-media, TV (time and in between which shows) TV and Radio times (print).

In addition, your child will be expected to answer questions based on his/her own original TV game show, therefore he/she can begin planning their idea by:

- creating a storyboard for the opening titles of the show. A storyboard for an advert,
- design a set for the new programme
- create a web page advertising the programme
- create a pitch for the programme idea
- create a script for TV Game show dialogue. (For the opening 2 minutes of the show – 3 words = 1 second)

As always in Media Studies, we are trying to develop a thoughtful understanding of **why** this type of media is successful – why people enjoy it, how it impacts on us and our society, how it is created, and what kind of ideology it promotes.

PowerPoint presentations used to teach the exam topic are available on the VLE. Lessons can also be accessed on Mrs Miller's blog. www.mymediabuzz.blogspot.co.uk