

Eduqas GCSE and GCE Media Studies Specifications Set Product Changes June 2019

Why are we making changes to the set products?

The dynamic nature of the media inevitably means that set products can quickly become dated. Our priority is that the set products in our specifications remain as relevant and engaging for learners as possible. Eduqas specifications require learners to explore the various media contexts through the products that are set; this is only possible if the products that are studied reflect contemporary society and issues. Additionally, the ephemeral nature of many media products has implications in terms of teachers being able to access products and related marketing materials for a prolonged time after their release.

How are we ensuring that these changes are manageable for centres?

In order to make these necessary changes as manageable as possible for teachers, we have intentionally kept the same overall products in many cases and merely changed the set edition or episode, for example, substituting a more recent front page of *The Sun* for an older one. This means that the majority of the materials and resources that teachers have developed for teaching will be still be relevant and useful. Where we have had to change the product entirely, such as the film studied for Section B of GCE Component 1, the product is only studied in relation to one area of the theoretical framework (media industries). For the video game in Section A of GCSE Component 1, many of the industry and audience issues remain the same. Therefore, in both cases, the preparation and resourcing implications are minimised. In addition, we will be providing resources to support the teaching of all of the revised products. (See the table later in this document). We have also deliberately phased in changes to the set products gradually to ensure manageability, and have responded to feedback from centres about the changes. (See below.)

When will the changes take effect?

At GCSE, AS and A Level, the changes are for first assessment in 2021 and therefore should inform the teaching of learners beginning two-year courses in September 2019. The changes will affect the teaching of learners studying a one-year AS level beginning in September 2020.

We do understand the impact on co-teachability for centres delivering the AS and A Level. However, it is not possible to introduce changes to AS and A level in such a way as to avoid impacting on co-teachability because some candidates enter for AS after one year of study, while others enter after two years of study.

What are the changes and what is the rationale behind each set product change?

Please see the tables later in the document for full details of the changes to the set products for assessment in 2021.

Having listened to and considered the feedback from centres about the manageability of the set product changes, we have taken the decision to defer the changes to the magazine covers for GCSE Component 1, *Pride* and *GQ*. The current versions of these magazines (*Pride* [November 2015] and *GQ* [July 2016]) will remain in the specification for assessment in 2021.

I am teaching the GCSE in three years. How will this affect me and my learners?

We understand that some centres have adopted a policy of teaching the GCSE over three years. However, the Eduqas GCSE Media Studies specification is designed to be delivered over two years, and therefore the decisions that we make regarding any changes to the specification are made according to a two-year plan.

It is important to remember that the focus of Component 1 is the study of a broad range of products that enables learners to develop knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework and to build the skills necessary to apply that knowledge and understanding to analyse media products. Learners should engage with a range of products, including the set products, and every product that is taught will help learners to establish the foundation needed to succeed in their assessed components. Centres who are delivering the GCSE over three years and who have taught any of the changing set products should be reassured that this teaching remains entirely relevant, that much of the learning is transferable between the existing and the new set products, and that their work so far will be very valuable in supporting learners' study of the new set products.

I have already bought the Eduqas endorsed textbooks and revision guide for GCSE. Are these still relevant?

The textbooks and revision guides remain entirely relevant. When planning the textbooks with Illuminate, a conscious decision was made to build the textbook around a range of different products rather than focusing specifically on the set products. The reasons for this are that, firstly, it is hugely beneficial for learners to engage with a range of products in terms of developing their analytical skills and knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework. Secondly, because the set products are likely to change, Illuminate wanted to ensure that the textbooks do remain relevant and useful support materials. Where there is reference to some of the set products in the textbooks, the information is largely

transferable to the new set product or can be used as an additional case study wholly relevant to learners' development of knowledge and understanding.

Will changes be made to the set products every year?

As it states in the specification, all set products will be reviewed periodically and changed where necessary for other age-appropriate products. We will change products when it is necessary to do so; if a product becomes outdated, if it becomes difficult to teach because of availability of materials, or if it becomes inappropriate for any reason, we will review and will change the set product.

We will change set products only when necessary and, as far as possible, introduce changes over time so that only a proportion of the set products within each of our specifications change at any one time.

How much notice will be given for future changes to set products?

We will regularly review set products for their ongoing suitability and accessibility. When changes to set products are necessary, we will inform centres by 01 March in the calendar year of the start of teaching for a two year course. For example, we will inform centres by 01 March 2020 of any changes to set products for assessment in 2022.

I'm concerned about the additional cost of producing different GCSE set product booklets for the exams given these changes; what can Eduqas do to support me with this?

From 2020 onwards, Eduqas will provide the set product that is to be used in the exam. We are mindful of the additional cost for centres that regularly creating new set product booklets will incur and we have listened to feedback from centres about the financial burden and manageability of providing set products to learners in exams. We want to support centres and teachers in managing this, and therefore have taken the decision to provide the set print products for the GCSE Component 1 exam in future.

GCSE			
Texts for assessment in 2019 and 2020	Texts for assessment from 2021	Rationale	Information about Eduqas produced resources
The Guardian (4 September 2015)	The Guardian (12 September 2018)	The newspaper front pages have been updated to make them more relevant, and reflective of issues more current than the previous front pages that will be 6 years and 8 years old, respectively, by 2021. For example, David Cameron features on the front cover <i>The Sun</i> (2013); by 2021, there will have been at least two further Prime Ministers. These texts have changed for section A only; the Section B set product and requirements remain the same.	The factsheets are being updated to reflect the changes to the section A set products and will be available in July 2019.
The Sun (18 December 2013)	The Sun (12 June 2018)		
Pokémon Go (2016)	Fortnite (2017)	Many teachers have raised concerns throughout the year about the limited amount of resources available for study on the <i>Pokémon Go</i> website and the dwindling popularity of this game. <i>Fortnite</i> has been extremely popular for young gamers in the past three years and provides a wealth of material for study in centres.	A factsheet is being produced and will be available in July 2019.
Michael Jackson, Black or White (1991)	TLC, Waterfalls (1995)	We are concerned that the allegations surrounding Michael Jackson may invite discussions around very sensitive issues. Although the set product is the video rather than the artist, we have decided to remove the set product in the interests of sensitivity to avoid possible distractions for learners and potential triggers for vulnerable learners.	A detailed digital resource is being produced and will be published in September 2019.

AS Level			
Texts for assessment in 2019 and 2020	Texts for assessment from 2021	Rationale	Information about Eduqas produced resources
Daily Mirror (November 10, 2016) front cover and article on US election	Daily Mirror (March 13, 2019) front page and article on 'Brexit' vote	The newspaper front page has been updated to make the set product more current, and reflective of issues more relevant than the previous set version. By 2021, for example, it may well be the case that Donald Trump is no longer President of the United States and therefore the news stories featured on the previous set text will be irrelevant. These changes affect Section A only; the Section B set product remains the same.	The factsheet is being updated to reflect the changes to the section A set products and will be available in July 2019.
Straight Outta Compton (2015)	Black Panther (2018)	Many teachers have raised concerns about the marketing material available for study, for example the <i>Straight Outta Compton</i> website is no longer available, which we have been informed has made teaching this topic difficult. <i>Black Panther</i> is a Hollywood blockbuster which broke box office records in its year of release, was the second highest-grossing film in 2018 and remains the third-highest grossing film of all time. The wealth of marketing materials available for this extraordinary film means that it will be an extremely rich text for learners to use as a vehicle to learn about film marketing.	A factsheet is being produced and will be available in July 2019.
Late Night Woman's Hour Home, 28 October, 2016	Late Night Woman's Hour (Extracts from at least one podcast selected by the centre)	We still prescribe Late Night Woman's Hour as the media product. However, having listened to feedback about the set episode of <i>LNWH</i> , we have taken the decision to remove the requirement to study one specific prescribed episode so that centres can choose the episode that they believe to be engaging for their learners. 'Home' can remain the episode for study if the centre so chooses.	A factsheet is being produced and will be available in July 2019.

A Level			
Texts for assessment in 2019 and 2020	Texts for assessment from 2021	Rationale	Information about Eduqas produced resources
Daily Mirror (November 10, 2016) front cover and article on US election	Daily Mirror (March 13, 2019) front page and article on 'Brexit' vote	The newspaper front pages have been updated to make the set product more current, and reflective of issues more relevant than the previous set versions. By 2021, for example, it may well be the case that Donald Trump is no longer President of the United States and therefore the news stories featured on the previous set texts will be irrelevant. These changes affect Section A only; the Section B set products remain the same.	The factsheets are being updated to reflect the changes to the section A set products and will be available in July 2019.
The Times , November 10, 2016 front and back pages	The Times , March 13, 2019 front page		
Straight Outta Compton (2015)	Black Panther (2018)	Many teachers have raised concerns about the marketing material available for study, for example the <i>Straight Outta Compton</i> website is no longer available which we have been informed has made teaching this topic difficult. <i>Black Panther</i> is a Hollywood blockbuster which broke box office records in its year of release, was the second highest-grossing film in 2018 and remains the third-highest grossing film of all time. The wealth of marketing materials available for this extraordinary film means that it will be an extremely rich text for learners to use as a vehicle to learn about film marketing.	A factsheet is being produced and will be available in July 2019.
Late Night Woman's Hour Home, 28 October, 2016	Late Night Woman's Hour (Extracts from at least two podcasts selected by the centre)	We still prescribe Late Night Woman's Hour as the media product. However, having listened to feedback about the set episode of <i>LNWH</i> , we have taken the decision to remove the requirement to study one specific prescribed episode so that centres can choose the episodes that they believe to be engaging for their learners. 'Home' can remain one of the episodes for study if the centre so chooses.	A factsheet is being produced and will be available in July 2019.
DesiMag	gal-dem	<i>Desimag</i> has effectively become dormant with most of its content syndicated from other sources.	We will be adding to our Online Media resource with activities to support the teaching of <i>gal-dem</i> in the next academic year.