

# Topic on a Page for GCSE AQA Media Two

## Section A: Television

Second Edition, May 2023

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## **A3 Revision Posters – Media Two: Section A**

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***Activity Posters are provided for each of the above.***

*All Topic on a Page posters are provided in A3 and A4 formats.*

# Teacher's Introduction

This resource is primarily intended to be used during revision by students studying GCSE (9–1) AQA (8572) Media Studies: Media Two: Section A. This section focuses on two television drama close study products (**for assessment from 2023**) and can test any area of the theoretical framework (Language, Representation, Industries, Audiences, Historical, Social and Cultural Contexts).

## Remember!

Always check the exam board website for new information, including changes to the specification and sample assessment material.

As a revision tool, this resource does not aim to cover the material in depth, but rather provide visual 'mind maps' of the entire GCSE AQA **Media Two** specification, which students can use as the basis of their revision, covering all the key vocabulary and knowledge that students need for their exam. The resource is especially suited to visual learners, and those learners who find it hard to revise from written notes.

The resource consists of:

- 10 completed mind maps, which provide solutions to the activity mind maps, labelled: ① to ⑩
- 10 activity mind maps (partially complete) for students to complete, labelled: ① to ⑩

*All mind maps are provided in A3 and A4 formats.*

How to use this resource:

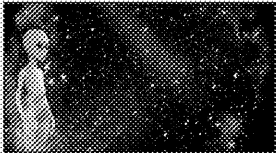
- The sheets can be handed out at the end of the course, or at the end of each topic for revision purposes.
- The mind maps can be printed out poster size and displayed on the classroom walls as the topic is being taught, so that students have a visual reminder of what they have been covering in their lessons.
- The resource includes partially completed mind maps. Students could be encouraged to complete the exercises as a way of recapping knowledge from the topic at the end of teaching. More-able students could, additionally, be asked to think of further examples to illustrate the points, whereas lower-ability students could provide more illustrations, or colour-code the mind maps, to aid memory of the key topics.

*May 2023*

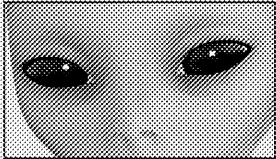
**Second Edition, May 2023**

This resource has been updated in line with specification changes to set products for exams from 2023.

Camera Shots



Long Shot



Extreme Close-up

Extreme Long Shot

Full Shot

Medium Shot

Medium Close-up

Close-up

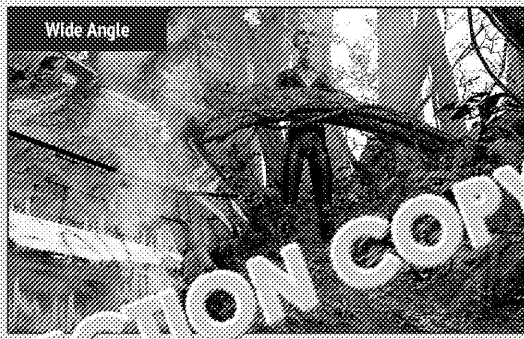
Cowboy Shot

POV Shot

Over-the-shoulder Shot

Aerial Shot

Camera Angles



Wide Angle

High Angle

High Angle

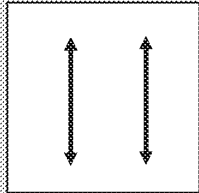
Low Angle

Camera Movement

Tracking Shot

Handheld Camera

Pedestal



Tilting Shot

TELEVISION LANGUAGE AND REPRESENTATION

1

The second wave of... This movement... representations of... embrace of ethnic... process. Despite the... Act of 1991, it is...

Major Science Fiction Programmes

The Twilight Zone (1959)

Doctor Who (1963)

Star Trek (1966)

Red Dwarf (1988)

The X-Files (1993)

Futurama (1999)

Fredy (2002)

Battlestar Galactica (2004)

Black Mirror (2011)

The 100 (2014)

Stranger Things (2016)

Westworld (2016)

Class (2016)

Binary Opposites

The progression of science fiction / fantasy narratives relies heavily on conflict. This conflict can be either **internal** or **external**. Conflict can be immediately established through the use of **binary opposites** (two elements that oppose each other). Typical examples of the genre include:



Good vs Evil



Human vs Alien

Technology (Benefits vs Hazards)

Oppression vs Freedom

**Visceral Pleasure:** When something has been created to provide the audience with physical exhilaration. Examples might include a jump scare in a horror movie or the excitement that comes with two beloved characters finally sharing a passionate kiss.

vs

**Cerebral Pleasure:** When something has been created to be intellectually satisfying for the audience. Examples might include the pleasure of a well-executed 'twist ending' or some relevant political commentary.

The term **genre hybridity** is used when codes and conventions often associated with two separate genres are present in a single media product. For example, the popular Netflix show *Stranger Things* combines elements from the science fiction genre (aliens, mysterious laboratories), the horror genre (gory images, jump scares) and the teen genre (romantic relationships, school setting).

Sci-fi Iconography

CGI Portals

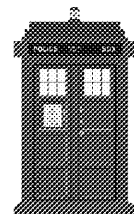
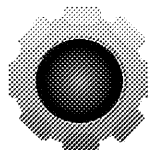
Futuristic Costumes

Wires/Circuits

Lab Coats

Laser Guns

Time Machines



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## Quick Timeline of British Television

**1929** – the launch of the first-ever television service, transmitted by the BBC

**1939** – all British television broadcasting was suspended for six years throughout World War II

**1946** – the first regular children's television service was established with the popular puppet show *Muffin the Mule*

**1955** – *I Love Lucy* became the first show to receive reruns. Repeating old episodes has since become the norm for popular television shows.

**1955** – the BBC's monopoly of British television came to an end with the launch of ITV

**1969** – the Moon landing was recorded live and watched by 600 million people across the planet

**1996** – the world's first launch of digital cable broadcasting

**2007** – online streaming service Netflix and on-demand service BBC iPlayer were launched in the same year

## The main factors TV producers use to target audiences

Gender

Age

Ethnicity

Social Class

Upbringing

*This is not to say that shows like Doctor Who cannot be enjoyed across multiple demographics (e.g. male and female, teenagers and baby boomers) However, the creator (with instruction from the broadcaster) will produce every TV show with a specific target audience in mind.*

**Synergy** – Multiple departments of a media conglomerate working in accordance with each other to increase profits and audience engagement, e.g. the BBC does not generate profit for producing *Doctor Who*, but the programme's audience engagement has been helped by the sale of toys and merchandise relating to the programme.

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## Pleasures and Rewards of Sci-fi and Fantasy

Spectacle    Tension    Escapes    Bizarre special effects

Highly detailed fictional worlds that distract us from our own

Fictional worlds invite audiences to engage in fandom and create their own narratives around the worlds they see

*Doctor Who's* creator Sydney Newman famously stated that he loved science fiction because it is 'a safe way of saying nasty things about our own society'.

**Press Release** – A public announcement made by a company regarding any news or developments. The purpose of this is to attract as much news coverage as possible, e.g. a television production company will publicly announce each new series of a show at least a few months in advance.

**Convergence** – The increasing availability of media products across multiple technological platforms such as 'An Unearthly Child', that was available on cable television, can now be accessed on multiple platforms, including DVD and Daily

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## Why do television producers rely on genres?

- Producers can recycle codes, conventions and formats from shows that have worked before.
- Audiences can be targeted with more accuracy. People know what they like.
- Low-risk investment – genre conventions have worked before and they will work again.

## Risks to the UK licence payer's fee

More and more audiences are subscribing to streaming services such as Netflix and Amazon. These audiences are consuming the majority of their television through these platforms rather than public service broadcasters such as the BBC. Many of these audiences feel that they should not be contributing towards a TV licence.

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HOWEVER

Traditional channels such as the BBC and Channel 4 have a long-established history of producing high-quality television.

According to Ofcom, approximately 70% of the television watched in 2016 was accessed on the UK's four main channels: BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5.

Terrestrial channels such as the BBC and Channel 4 have consistently invested in new innovations (BBC iPlayer, More 4, the red button, active social media accounts, online forums) in order to maintain a large audience.

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## Before catch-up television...

- Audiences would have to adjust to the schedules of terrestrial broadcasters
- Television was seen as something for families to consume together (a **socially cohesive** activity)
- Audiences would have to wait for repeats if they missed their favourite programme

## Since catch-up television...

- Audiences can record programmes and revisit them at any time
- Audiences can rewind and replay programmes as much as they want
- Audiences can skip advertising breaks (if watching on a commercial channel)

## How has broadband changed the way we watch television?

- Audiences can now use online catch-up services such as BBC iPlayer to watch programming at no additional cost. These services can be accessed on mobile devices (laptop, etc.) with Wi-Fi or Smart TVs (television sets with integrated internet access)

The increasing popularity of DVD box sets and online streaming services over the last 20 years has largely affected the pleasures audiences receive from watching television. Before these innovations, audiences would have to wait a week between episodes, giving them time to predict what would happen in the next episode. Nowadays, there is a culture of binge watching in which audiences will watch an entire series in a very short space of time.

## The benefit of streaming services

Crime dramas produced by traditional broadcasters will often be sold to online streaming services such as Netflix and Amazon. Keeping a series readily available for audiences is an effective way of maintaining its **relevance** in an age of such heavily saturated media content.

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# 3 Doctor Who Media Language

## EDITING TECHNIQUES

### EPISODE 1:

### 'AN UNEARTHLY CHILD'

**Continuity Editing** – The events of the story are presented in chronological order. Scenes will often end with characters agreeing to do something, and the next scene can be a cut to those characters in that new location, presenting the episode with a **linear narrative**.

The transitions between the flashback action of Barbara running Susan and the present day are achieved using **dissolve** edits. This is when the visible image is gradually reduced in order to transition smoothly into another shot.



The edit between the junkyard and Coal Hill School is achieved using a **defocus transition**. The camera's focus is distorted to the extent that a change in setting becomes seamless.

The edit between the junkyard and Coal Hill School is achieved using a **defocus transition**. The camera's focus is distorted to the extent that a change in setting becomes seamless.

Character	Character Type (Vladimir Propp)
The Doctor	Villain
Susan Foreman	Princess/Reward
Ian	Hero OR Helper
Barbara	Hero OR Dispatcher

'An Unearthly Child' is a highly unusual case study when it comes to studying Propp's character types.

- The Doctor is the villain by refusing to help the children, and by sending them into a dangerous dimension against their collective will. The Doctor would quickly go on to become the hero of the series.
- It is up for debate who the hero of the episode is. Is it Barbara because she initiates the journey, or does Ian become the hero when Barbara suggests they follow Susan?



**Depth of field** refers to the range of distance that is in focus. A shallow depth of field means that the subject is in focus, but the foreground and background are out of focus. This draws the audience's attention to the subject, creating a busy frame. A **defocus transition** is when the focus shifts from one subject to another.

**What effect do the real budget have on the production?**

- Camera Movement** – The camera movement is recorded in real-time, using simple techniques.
- Lack of Colour** – The lack of colour is due to the expensive nature of the equipment used at the time.
- Limited Location** – The limited location is due to the fact that the production was based at Lime Grove Studios, which had limited external shots available.
- Set and Props** – Due to the limited budget, the sets and props used in the series are simple and often reused.
- Storytelling** – Due to the limited budget, the storytelling is often achieved through dialogue and simple camera work.

Technical Code	Definition	Example	Meaning
<b>Tracking Shot</b>	The camera moves through a location, often in conjunction with a particular person or subject	The camera follows a police officer through the foggy streets of London, eventually breaking away from him to explore a mysterious junkyard	Designed to gradually reveal information to the audience without excessive cuts
<b>Over-the-shoulder Shot</b>	A subject or character is filmed from behind another character's shoulder	In Ian's classroom, Barbara faces him and reveals that Susan Foreman is troubling her	Allows the camera to capture Ian's facial reactions in detail while keeping Barbara within the frame
<b>Tilting Shot</b>	The camera remains stationary but rotates on a vertical axis	Susan is introduced in a shot that starts with her face before gradually moving down her body and back up to her face	Fluid way of revealing Susan's quintessential 1960s outfit and the curious way in which she dances to her portable radio – a hint at her alien nature
<b>Two Shot</b>	When two characters are equally prominent within the frame	When Barbara hands Susan the book on the French Revolution, she observes Susan as Susan observes the book	Enables Barbara and Susan to be seen simultaneously, highlighting the strange relationship between them
<b>Extreme CU</b>	A very specific part of a subject is framed at close range	When the camera tracks in on the face of Susan, it creates a sense of mystery and a further sense of enigma around her character	Creates a sense of mystery around Susan. She states with confidence that a history book is incorrect. We don't yet know why she thinks this.
<b>POV Shot</b>	Stands for 'point of view' and is used to show what a character sees	The camera shows the perspective of Susan arguing in class about radioactive chemicals. The camera has adopted Ian's perspective as he questions her.	We are made to identify with Ian's experience – this effectively distances us from Susan, adding to the mystery
<b>Focus Shift</b>	Within a single shot, the focus shifts from a shallow depth of field to a deeper one	As Ian and Barbara wait in the car, the camera is mostly stationary but the focus shifts depending on who is talking	A simple film-making technique which ensures that we can see a character's expressions clearly while they speak
<b>Panning Shot</b>	The camera remains stationary but rotates on a horizontal axis	When Barbara enters the TARDIS, the camera slowly reveals the entire room and Susan's approach from a stationary position	Camera movement mimics what Barbara and Ian are doing – adds to the sense of awe surrounding this bizarre new location
<b>Canted Angle</b>	The camera is slanted so horizontal lines do not run in parallel with the frame, creating a disorientating effect.	When Susan begs the Doctor to let the teachers leave, the camera shoots to Susan as she pleads from beneath at a slight angle	Reflects Susan's desperation and clarifies that everything is suddenly 'out of place' in the story

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# 4 Doctor Who Representation

EPISODE 1: 'AN UNEARTHLY CHILD'

## Personality traits of the major characters

The Doctor	Susan Foreman	Mr Chesterton	Ian
Patriarchal figure	Responsible	Witty	Loyal to his friends
Quick-witted	Responsible	Witty	Headstrong
Patronising	Responsible	Witty	Eager to learn
Highly intelligent	Responsible	Witty	Sceptical
Natural leader	Responsible	Witty	Willing to stand his ground
Quintessentially English	Responsible	Witty	Embraces youth culture
Dislikes 20 <sup>th</sup> -century	Responsible	Witty	Willing to take action
Guardian figure	Responsible	Witty	



'Can't you see that all this is an illusion? It's a game that you and your grandfather are playing.'

'Now, now don't get exasperated Susan. Remember the Red Indian. When he saw the first steam train his savage mind thought it an illusion too.'

'I have an enquiring mind and a very sensitive ear.'

'No thank you Mr Chesterton. I'm walking through the dark. It's mysterious.'



**Barbara** represents both rationality and Britain's national ignorance of new technologies. This line also demonstrates the way in which Susan is patronised as a teenager.

**The Doctor** is represented as an enlightened elderly man. His comments would be considered 'racist' by large sections of a modern audience. He is also patronising towards his granddaughter, demonstrating his position as a patriarchal authority figure.

British teachers are represented positively through **Ian**. He is both willing to listen to the interests of students and to show respect for their opinions.

**Susan** is represented as being 'unlike' the average 1960s teenager. She speaks in a vague manner that comes to make sense when she is revealed to be an alien.

**Estuary English:** A British accent associated with people living in and around the vicinity of London. It is thought to combine elements of RP (an accent commonly associated with the English upper class) and London speech.

**RP (Received Pronunciation):** A Southern British accent associated with money, prestige and privilege.

## Under-representation

The role of an 'healthy child' is entirely white. Despite the immigration, the civil rights movement was yet to gain great traction in representing the growing multiculturalism.

Unlike **Clara**, **Susan** is made to homoeosexualise her sexuality. It was still illegal in 1963 and the BBC felt uncomfortable representing this to a mainstream family audience.

All major characters speak with an RP accent. This manner of speech is 'BBC English'. It was rare for the BBC to hire performers with regional accents today, in which both ethnic and regional diversity is considered.

## Misrepresentation

Teenagers have historically been on the receiving end of misrepresentation in mainstream media. Film and television would often present teenagers as violent criminals who the adult protagonists would struggle to understand. To some extent, the character of Susan is fairly sympathetic for being intelligent but she is also able to stand up for what she believes in.

However, the BBC was still unable to accurately represent teenagers to the influence of **British Invasion** (innovative British pop band success in America, e.g. *The Beatles*, *The Rolling Stones*) the period in which teenagers rebelled against their parents and experimented with drugs, alcohol and free love. This side of teenagers was the close study product because the gatekeepers of the BBC were the time and place to discourage children from rebelling.



**Susan's** long-sleeved pixie hairstyle was popular in the 1960s. How does this precede that which was popular throughout the 1960s, such as the colours, pop art etc.

**The Doctor** stands out from the other characters as having a sense of style. His shirt makes him out of place in the 1960s era. This hints at a character who is from a different time.

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# Doctor Who Industries

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## EPISODE 1: 'AN UNEARTHLY CHILD'

### 'AN UNEARTHLY CHILD' - FACT SHEET

- **Initial date of broadcast:** Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1963
- **Time of broadcast:** 5.15pm
- **Original network:** BBC One
- **Original target audience:** Children (particularly older children)
- **Series creator:** Sydney Newman (Head of Drama)
- **Producer:** Verity Lambert (first women for BBC television)
- **Production company:** BBC Television (in-house)
- **Shooting location:** Lime Grove Studios
- **Pilot episode length:** 23 minutes 24 seconds
- **Episode 1 UK viewing figures:** 4.4 million
- **Average UK viewing figures for first serial:** 5.9 million



**Remember:** Catch-up television, streaming services and home media were not available in 1963. Even video tape recorders only became widely available in the early 1980s. This meant that *Doctor Who* audiences would have to watch the programme live or tune in for repeat broadcasts (which were rare).

**On the other hand:** In 1963, there were only two available television channels in the UK, so the show was able to attract a greater proportion of TV viewers. The first serial's viewing figures peaked at 6.9 million for the first episode.

**Pilot** - The first episode of a television programme. This will be assessed and a decision will be made as to whether an entire series is broadcast.

**Transmission** - The broadcast of a television or radio programme to multiple audiences simultaneously.

Production difficulties that arose during production of 'An Unearthly Child'

Various re-writes and a sudden change of director caused significant delays in production

Initially, the cast were only given one week to rehearse for the recording. There were several occasions in which the cast stumbled over their lines.

In one of the early scenes, Ian and Barbara famously struggled to open the door to the classroom where Susan is dancing

There were various lighting issues where the actors' faces would be entirely hidden in shadow

As was common for live-to-tape productions of the period, there were several instances of camera operators tripping over pieces of set or having their shadows visible in the frame

Audiences now had more television to select from - higher competition

ITV adapted its content to suit regional broadcasting

Threat of ITV

ITV was not constrained by the same rules as a public service broadcaster such as the BBC

ITV had begun to release popular television shows such as *Coronation Street*

**Sydney Newman** came up with the idea for *Doctor Who*. He was a huge fan of science fiction and had achieved success producing *Patchriders in Space* for an independent television company. Newman was appointed Head of Drama at the BBC because the organisation wanted someone who could help it compete with upcoming commercial broadcasters.

The BBC is a public service broadcaster. The organisation's primary obligation is serving the public. Funding comes from the public, and, in turn, the broadcaster is perceived to be owned by the public. Public service broadcasters are often run by the state on behalf of the public.

All episodes of 'Child' have been made available to DailyMotion.com for recording of the programme (featuring full unbroken programme available to watch).



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- The show was the first to be recorded on video.
- William Hartnell was the first actor to play the Doctor.
- Many of the original writers were from the BBC.
- Carol Vorderman was the first to play the TARDIS console.
- The show was the first to be recorded on video.
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# Doctor Who Context & Audiences

## EPISODE 1: 'AN UNEARTHLY CHILD'

'An Unearthly Child' will mostly have been watched by members of the silent generation and baby boomer generation. Listed below are some of the general values and characteristics of these generations.

### The Silent Generation (Born 1925–1945)

- Many fought in World War II
- Noted for leading the baby boom
- Raised during economic hardship
- Strong and disciplined
- Often referred to as 'traditionalists' – gracious, respectful of elders and committed to upholding core British values



### The Baby Boomer Generation (Born 1945–1965)

- Born after World War Two
- Often referred to as the 'Me generation' – goal-orientated, ambitious and competitive
- Liberal in their youth but eventually conservative when they reach adulthood
- Experimental with fashion, drugs, art and culture

Consider what the *Doctor Who* franchise has achieved since 'An Unearthly Child' was broadcast. This will give you a better idea of how contemporary audiences will read the episode.

Between 1963 and 1989, *Doctor Who* continued to run for 26 seasons with seven different actors playing the titular role.

*Doctor Who* was rebooted in 2005 and has continued to run ever since. All episodes from this point onwards are available on BBC iPlayer and are continuing to enthral younger generations.

*Doctor Who* has a following of loyal fans, many of whom call themselves 'Whovians'.

In 2017, British actor Jodie Whittaker was announced as the thirteenth doctor (54 years after 'An Unearthly Child' was initially broadcast). The casting decision suggests that more women are being employed in multiple departments of the BBC – casting, production, etc. Many audiences said that it was about time a woman played the role.



The Doctor quickly became a popular character because of his demonstrated intelligence, wit and willingness to put himself in danger to help others.

When Ian touches the TARDIS he exclaims "it's alive!". This could be an **intertextual reference** to the classic sci-fi/Horror *Frankenstein*.

Due to the limited number of channels available, television was often watched together and watch television as a family. Therefore, television was seen as an activity in which media encouraged the same ideas and behaviours. *An Unearthly Child* achieves this effect by appealing to

Uses and Gratifications	
Entertainment/Diversion	
Information	
Personal Identity	
Social Interaction	

**i** *Doctor Who* was originally an educational programme. The TARDIS would change the episode to blend in with the period. Gradually, audiences were more interested in fantastical science fiction rather than the educational content.



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When 'An Unearthly Child' was broadcast, the critical reception to the series was fairly mixed. There were publications that criticised the show's storyline and camerawork, claiming that it was a series that audiences will want to keep watching to find out what happens next. However, many reviewers (notably *The Guardian*) criticised the show for its childish premise and the underwhelming character development.

Contemporary critics have been more positive. Professional critics and *Doctor Who* fans alike have revisited the episode, praising its haunting atmosphere, strong performances and ability to establish a world that would become the setting for one of Britain's longest-running series.

# HIS DARK MATERIALS: 7 MEDIA LANGUAGE

## SERIES 2. EPISODE 1: 'THE CITY OF MAGPIES'

The narrative structure of 'The City of Magpies' is more complex than that of a film or a TV episode with an isolated storyline...

- As a result, the narrative progression in *His Dark Materials* occurs across multiple episodes. This is done over and over again in series two. Milton and Mrs Coulter are introduced throughout this episode, but major conflicts are not introduced until the next episode.
- There is also being a multistrand narrative in this episode, that run through this episode. This includes Lyra and Will being there, the evil witch-woman Catagaryn, Mrs Coulter, the head of the city, the city itself, and the quest to find answers. Levi Strauss is an important character to help protect Lyra, Lyra and Will discover the dangerous secrets of the city and meet the children who have been abandoned by their parents, running from soul-stealing spectres.



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### Levi Strauss' Opinions

- There are a number of binary oppositions featured within the episode – here are some examples:
- Good vs evil** – Mrs Coulter vs the witches
  - Adulthood vs childhood** – Mrs Coulter vs Lyra, or the abandoned children vs the adult soul-stealing spectres
  - Magic vs non-magic** – Lyra vs Will

### Codes and Conventions of the major genres

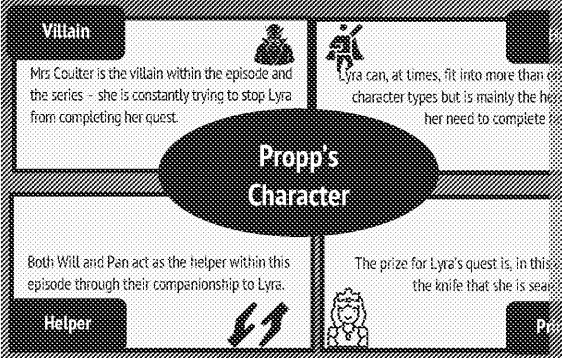
Drama	Fantasy	Family

Ensemble cast	Magical daemons	Dedicated fan base
Stereotypical characters	Mysterious worlds	Family target
Multistrand narratives	A clear quest	
Realistic lighting and editing		Production values



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The invention of CGI technology has allowed television producers to create worlds and set pieces which would not have been possible in 1963. For example, all of the daemons were created using CGI. CGI on this scale has not always been available to use in television and has been usually associated with big-budget films.



Technical code	Definition	Episode
Over-the-shoulder shot	A subject or character is filmed from behind another character's shoulder.	(09:15)
Focus shift	A shift in focus from a shallow depth of field to a deeper one.	(19:39-40)
Wide-angle shot	A wide shot of a location in which a scene is about to take place.	(08:50)
Extreme CU	A very specific part of a subject is framed at close range.	(38:50)
Canted angle	The camera is slanted so horizontal lines do not run in parallel within the frame.	(16:12)
Tracking shot	The camera moves through a location, often in conjunction with a particular person or subject.	(09:50)
Close-up shot	The subject or character's face fills the entire frame.	(31:54)
Wide-angle shot	Shot of a wide landscape, often with multiple components within the frame.	(37:34)
High-angle shot	The camera is situated above the main subject of the frame.	(42:39)
Low-angle shot	The camera is situated below the main subject of the frame.	(07:50)

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## Subverting gender stereotypes within the show

Character	Quality	Example
Lyra	Powerful	Lyra regularly approaches challenges head-on and doesn't shy away
	Confident	Lyra takes what she wants when she wants it
	Independent	Lyra does not rely on other characters in the narrative to help her achieve her goals
Mrs Coulter	Intelligent	Mrs Coulter is continually manipulating and controlling the characters around her
	Cold-hearted	Mrs Coulter comfortably tortures the witch in this episode to gain information
	Not maternal	Mrs Coulter does not feel maternal towards her children
Will	Kind	Will is very welcoming to other characters
	Caring	Will cooks meals for Lyra
	Domestic	Will makes up beds for the children and Lyra to clean corridors

## Representations constructed through fantasy

**Fear of the unknown:** The Spectres possess fantastical powers that human nature is afraid of our encounters with the unknown beyond past experience to help us navigate it.

**Loss of innocence/ Fear of growing up:** Throughout the narrative of the series there is a clear divide between the child characters and the characters who have grown up into antagonists or the useless zombies. This represents the fear of growing up and losing innocence.

**Fear of institutionalism:** *His Dark Materials* has a negative representation of institutionalism which is represented through the evil establishments in the series. This representation could also be linked to the institutions of the Magisterium are represented as very uneducated in their religion and their preference for ignorance.

How is the representation of young characters in 'An Unerth' different from that in 'The City'?

The majority of the characters within both this episode and the series are children who do not need adults to assist them.

The representation of young characters is generally very positive and **countertypical** for traditional television. For example:

- Lyra is a complex, intelligent and mature character who doesn't need assistance from adults.
- The abandoned children within the city display their survival skills and how they do not need adults to survive.

There is also a **subverting** of adult parental stereotypes through the character of Mrs Coulter. She is a mother who is not maternal and actually dangerous for her child.

Many of the children in the episode do however display some **stereotypical traits** for their young age: there is a core **want** for parental figures from the abandoned children within the city, and Lyra is a generally **rebellious** child who pushes against the guidance from her mother.



His Dark Materials - The City

Character	Actor	
Lyra Belacqua	Dafne Keen	British-Spanish young actress
Will Parry	Amir Wilson	English-Sudanese young actor
Mrs Coulter	Ruth Wilson	English actress
Pantalaimon	Kit Connor	English young actor
Lee Scoresby	Lin-Manuel Miranda	American actor, composer, singer, rapper, film-maker



# HIS DARK MATERIALS REPRESENTATION

## SERIES 2. EPISODE 1: 'THE CITY'

### Social class representation

The representation of social class within the episode is generally very mixed.

Mrs Coulter, for example, is very **stereotypical** in her **high class** representation. She wears 'fashionable' clothing, lives in a **private apartment** and is **very wealthy** and **powerful**.

The abandoned children within the lost city are very **stereotypical** in their **lower class representation**. The children are living in a **communal setting** and are **struggling** to provide the basic necessities for themselves.

### Male representation within the episode

- The two most significant male characters in this episode give an excellent representation of men. **Will** very much **subverts** the stereotypical male character who is friendly and welcoming and helps her as much as possible. He has somewhere to sleep and eat.
- **Lee Scoresby** on the other hand is a stereotypical male character due to his attitude towards the mission.

### Female representation within the episode

- There is a significant amount of **stereotypical** representation within this episode. **Lyra** is a character who **subverts** the stereotypical female character who is strong and independent, she puts in a significant effort with her mission and she walks into situations alone.
- **Mrs Coulter** is another female character who **conforms to gender stereotypes**. She is a stereotypical independent character. She commits evil acts towards her children and does not display any of the stereotypical traits towards her daughter, Lyra.

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# HIS DARK MATERIALS: INDUSTRIES

## SERIES 2. EPISODE 1: 'THE CITY OF MAGPIES'

**Adaptation:** The action or process of being adapted. A film, television play that has been adapted from a book.

**Co-commissioned:** The BBC, Moore, Controller BBC, Commissioning and Head of BBC One, Wolf and New Line Cinema.

### 'THE CITY OF MAGPIES' – FACT SHEET

- **Initial date of broadcast in UK:** Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020
- **Time of broadcast:** 8.10pm
- **Original network UK:** BBC1
- **Initial international broadcast:** 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020
- **Series creator:** Jack Thorne
- **Commissioning company:** HBO
- **Distributor:** BBC and HBO (handling international distribution)
- **Production company:** Bad Wolf
- **Episode length:** 50 minutes
- **Episode UK viewing figures:** 7.2 million (UK) 423,000 (HBO)



### Advantages and disadvantages of BBC and HBO collaboration

- Advantages**
- HBO is a huge television production company such as HBO provides the programme access to a significant budget.
  - HBO has over 40 million subscribers - this is a huge audience who will be introduced to this programme series and, in turn, BBC programming as a whole.
  - HBO has a reputation for creating some of the most impressive television series of all time - *The Sopranos*, *The Wire* - this reputation will be reflected in *His Dark Materials*.
- Disadvantages**
- BBC has an American-based cable network (BBC America) and, therefore, an American audience. HBO, however, will take the lead on releasing this programme to this American audience.
  - Lack of complete creative control - if HBO has a part in the production of this series, they will want to ensure that the series meets their expected quality.

**Global marketing:** Methods used to promote a media product in multiple countries, e.g. trailers, pre-roll advertising and social media marketing for television is accessible for audiences across the globe

vs

**Regional marketing:** Methods used to promote a media product within a smaller geographical area, e.g. outdoor advertising, live television conventions and private panel shows are only available to audiences within a specific country or region

### Why was it important for the BBC to gain the rights to this fantasy series?

The way in which young people consume television has changed dramatically over recent years and the amount of television content being produced has also increased dramatically.

Shows such as *Stranger Things* and *House of the Dragon* have proved to be extremely popular with younger audiences. Younger audiences are watching less and less television and so having a right to popular fantasy television series on these platforms.

### Public service broadcaster vs premium television network

The BBC is a public service broadcaster: a broadcasting station funded by licence fees and broadcasting solely for the benefit of the public rather than for commercial gain and to make a profit. On the other hand, HBO is a premium television network owned by Home Box Office Inc. that will have a focus on commercial gain.

### Effect on demand

The way in which young people consume television has changed significantly and so television is being produced to meet this demand.

On-demand, big-budget television series are being produced in order to compete with premium television networks.

*His Dark Materials* is the BBC's most expensive on-demand series and was made available on-demand 10 weeks after its initial broadcast.

### His Dark Materials MARKETING

HBO sent personalised sculptures to the most famous fans of the new series. The sculptures determined the media presence. The marketing agency 360i and sculptor Kate MacDowell to craft porcelain miniatures of 'personal daemons' to give to fans, per an announcement shared with Mobile Marketer.

### His Dark Materials has been made available on the following platforms...

HBO	16 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
iPlayer	28 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
DVD	28 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
iTunes	4 <sup>th</sup> January 2021

*His Dark Materials* is an HBO series that will come out on the BBC. The series will be on the network from 9pm.

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# HIS DARK MATERIALS: CONTEXT & AUDIENCE

## SERIES 2. EPISODE 1: 'THE CITY OF MAGPIES'

*His Dark Materials* is a television series based upon a trilogy of books written by Philip Pullman that consists of *Northern Lights* (1995), *The Secret Knife* (1997) and *The Amber Spyglass* (2000).

The books are generally marketed under the genre of young adult fiction, due to the main protagonists being teenagers. However, they do include very clear fantasy genre conventions such as magic and daemons.

The **fantasy genre** is a genre that can be traced back to the beginning of **literature** and the telling of folk tales and folklore. The first explicitly fantasy work of literature can be traced back to the 1800s with authors such as Lewis Carroll and J. K. Rowling. The works of **J. R. R. Tolkien** were seen as the genre was explicitly established and did much to define the genre would be widely popular with audiences. The fantasy genre is an **enduring cultural phenomenon** with series such as *Game of Thrones* and *House of the Dragon* keeping the spark alive.

**Who are the target audience?**  
The target audience for the series is a **modern family audience**. The fans of the series are likely to be fans of the **fantasy genre** and potentially fans of the **original novel series** by Philip Pullman.

### How was the core audience targeted?

- † This show was rumoured to be the BBC's most expensive series to date, split between the BBC and the American television conglomerate HBO, allowed for **high-quality CGI, costumes and locations**, etc. which draw in the audience.
- † The **trailer** for series 2 was released in October 2020 before series 2. In November of the same year – this trailer was widely reviewed as a pre-release with its **clear links to the novels** (for the fans who are familiar without ruining the sense of **enigma**).
- † Executive producers Jane Tranter and Jack Thorne explain – in an interview on their website – how developing the book into the TV series posed many issues, such as daemons, the many alternative worlds and remaining true to the novel. The focus was on authenticity (similarities to our world), the theme of **magic** and the show remained an emotional story.

### His Dark Materials and organised religion

The series *His Dark Materials* has generated its fair share of controversy, most notably around its comparisons to organised religion – mainly the Catholic Church. Within the series the Magisterium works on behalf of the Church and tries to ensure that all scientific discoveries that may lead people to question their religion are kept closely guarded. The Church within the series has spies everywhere and actively tries to eliminate threats to its belief systems, such as Lord Asriel and his discovery of dust.

Some critics have suggested that Pullman is **anti-religion** and **pro-science**, when in fact he is actually **against excessive institutionalism** and the problems that arise when large governing bodies are given overall power. Pullman thinks that knowledge should be available to everyone and that **open communication** and **democracy** are key.

### BBFC Rating

When *His Dark Materials* was released on BBC One the series received a **12 rating** from the BBFC for **moderate violence**. The show covers some more **adult topics** such as **death**, the concept of a **soul** and **violence towards children**. The show does have some **moderately scary moments** (the torture scene between Mrs Coulter and the witch). The show isn't suitable for young children, but for older children and teenagers it is fine – the horror has been compared to other TV shows such as *Doctor Who* and films like *The Harry Potter* series.

Uses and Gratifications	Explanation
Entertainment/Diversion	
Information	
Personal Identity	
Social Interaction	

The opening episode of series 2 of *His Dark Materials* gained a live audience of **5.67 million**. When comparing this with the opening episode of series 1 at **9.72 million** views, it is clear that there has been a general **downwards trend** in terms of the viewing figures. It is not unheard of for the first series of a show to gain more viewers than subsequent series; however, many popular shows see a rise in viewing figures from one series to the next.

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### Camera Shots

Identify five additional types of camera shot (including those shown in the alien images)

Extreme Long Shot

Medium Shot

Medium Close-up

Close-up

Cowboy Shot

Aerial Shot

### Camera Angles

Identify five types of camera angle (including those shown in the alien images)

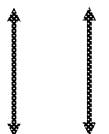
High Angle

### Camera Manoeuvres

Identify five types of camera manoeuvre (including those shown in the alien images)

Handheld Camera

Pedestal



# TELEVISION LANGUAGE AND REPRESENTATION



1

1.

2.

Complete a list of 10 major science fiction programmes (*Doctor Who* and *Class* not included)

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

### Binary Opposites

The progression of science fiction / fantasy narratives relies heavily on conflict. This conflict can be either **internal** or **external**. Conflict can be immediately established through the use of **binary opposites** (two elements that oppose each other). Typical examples of the genre include:

Provide four examples of binary opposites typical of the science fiction genre

- 
- 
- 
- 

It is no more than 50 words



Visceral Pleasure:

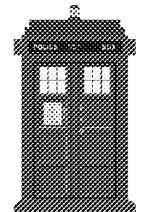
Briefly explain the difference between visceral pleasure and cerebral pleasure

Cerebral Pleasure:

Provide five more examples of typical sci-fi iconography

### Sci-fi Iconography


Time Machines



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### Quick Timeline of British Television

Rearrange the events into chronological order.

Online streaming service Netflix and on-demand service BBC iPlayer were launched in the same year

All British television broadcasting was suspended for six years throughout World War II

The BBC's monopoly over British television came to an end with the launch of ITV

The first regular children's television service was established with the popular puppet series *Muffin the Mule*

The Moon landing was recorded live and watched by 600 million people across the planet

The launch of the first-ever television service, transmitted by the BBC

*I Love Lucy* became the first show to receive reruns. Repeating old episodes has since become the norm for popular television shows.

The world's first launch of digital cable broadcasting

What are five of the main factors TV producers consider when targeting audiences?

*This is not to say that shows like Doctor Who cannot be enjoyed across multiple demographics. However, the creator (with instruction from the broadcaster) will produce every TV show with a specific target audience in mind.*

Provide definitions for the following key terms:

Synergy -

Content

Production

What are some of the pleasures and rewards of the...

Press Release -

Convergence -

**Doctor Who's creator Sydney Newman famously stated that he loved science fiction because it is 'a safe way of saying nasty things about our own society'.**

Why do television producers rely on genres?

- Producers can recycle codes, conventions and formats from shows that have worked before.
- 
- 

Identify two more reasons why television producers rely on genres

Risks to the UK licence payer's fee

Briefly explain how catch-up television has made it easier for audiences to watch television

Briefly explain how binge watching has changed the way in which we watch television

In no more than 30 words, describe the benefits of binge watching

#### The benefit of streaming services

Crime dramas produced by traditional broadcasters will often be sold to online streaming services such as Netflix and Amazon. Keeping a series readily available for audiences is an effective way of maintaining its **relevance** in an age of such heavily saturated media content.

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# 3 Doctor Who Media Language

## EDITING TECHNIQUES

### EPISODE 1: 'AN UNEARTHLY CHILD'

**Editing** - The events of the story are presented in chronological order. Scenes will often show characters agreeing to visit a location, then cut to those characters in the location. This is often achieved with a dissolve.

The transitions between the flashbacks of Susan and the present day are achieved using **dissolve** edits. This is when the opacity of an image is gradually reduced in order to transition smoothly into another shot.

The action of Barbara running into the TARDIS triggers a cut to a new location. This editing technique is known as a **cut**.

The edit between the junkyard and Coal Hill School is achieved using a **cross-dissolve** transition. The camera's focus is distorted to the extent that a change in setting becomes seamless.

Fill in the table below with any missing information.

Technical Code	Definition	Example	Meaning
Tracking Shot	The camera moves through a location, often in conjunction with a particular person or subject	The camera follows a police officer through the foggy streets of London, eventually breaking away from him to explore a mysterious junkyard	Designed to gradually reveal information to the audience without excessive cuts
Over-the-shoulder Shot	A subject or character is filmed from behind another character's shoulder	In Ian's classroom, Barbara faces him and reveals that Susan Foreman is troubling her	
Tilting Shot		Susan is introduced in a shot that starts with her face before gradually moving down her body and back up to her face	
	When two characters are equally prominent within the frame	When Barbara hands Susan the book on the French Revolution, she observes Susan as Susan observes the book	
Extreme CU		When the camera zooms in to reveal a close-up of Susan's face as she reads the book of Susan's French Revolution	
POV Shot	Stands for 'point of view'. The camera appears to look through the eyes of a particular character	The camera shows the perspective of Susan arguing in class about dangerous chemicals. The camera has adopted Ian's perspective as he questions her.	
Focus Shift		As Ian and Barbara wait in the car, the camera is mostly stationary but the focus shifts depending on who is talking	
Panning Shot	The camera remains stationary but rotates on a horizontal axis	When Barbara enters the TARDIS, the camera slowly reveals the entire room and Susan's approach from a stationary position	
Canted Angle		When Susan begs the Doctor to let the teachers leave, the camera shoots to Susan as she pleads from beneath at a slight angle	

Identify the character types that best fit the characters in 'An Unearthly Child'

Character	Character Type (Mladimir Propp)
The Doctor	
Susan Foreman	
Ian	OR
Barbara	OR

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Describe two ways in which 'An Unearthly Child' is unusual in terms of its use of Propp's character types.

What effect do the restrictions on the budget have on the film?

What effect have the restrictions on the budget had on 'An Unearthly Child'?

- Camera Movement: recorded in real-time and simple manoeuvres

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# Doctor Who Representation

## EPISODE 1: 'AN UNEARTHLY CHILD'

### Personality traits of the major characters

Identify each of the major characters by personality traits

Patriarchal figure Quick-witted Patronising Highly intelligent Natural leader Quintessentially British Dislikes 20 <sup>th</sup> -century Guardian figure	Respectful Forthright Loves culture Lacks knowledge Politically headstrong Interest in history Other-worldly behaviour Slightly sulky	Responsible Willing to break rules Sceptical about TARDIS Well-mannered Engaged with teaching	Loyal to his friends Headstrong Eager to learn Sceptical Willing to stand his ground Embraces youth culture Willing to take action
--	--	---	--

Identify each major character from the following lines of dialogue

'Can't you see that all this is an illusion? It's a game that you and your grandfather are playing.'

'Now, now don't get exasperated Susan. Remember the Red Indian. When he saw the first steam train his savage mind thought it an illusion too.'

'I have an enquiring mind and a very sensitive ear.'

'No thank you Mr Chesterton. walking through the dark. mysterious.'

Provide definitions for the following key terms:

Estuary English:

RP (Received Pronunciation):

### Under-representation

Fill in the missing words below: immigration | civil right | BBC English | homosexuality | illegal | mainstream | white

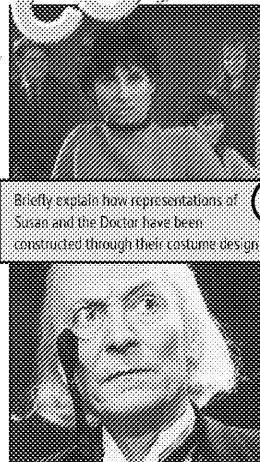
The cast of 'An Unearthly Child' is entirely \_\_\_\_\_. D post-war \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ movement was and the BBC was unwilling to represent the \_\_\_\_\_.

Unlike \_\_\_\_\_, no \_\_\_\_\_ force whatsoever is made to \_\_\_\_\_ its sexual \_\_\_\_\_ as part \_\_\_\_\_ in 1963 and the BBC \_\_\_\_\_ family audience.

All major characters speak with an \_\_\_\_\_ accent. became recognised as '\_\_\_\_\_. It was rare for the BBC regional accents (unlike today, in which both ethnic and regional accents considered highly important).

### Misrepresentation

In no more than 100 words, explain how 1960s teen culture is represented in 'An Unearthly Child'



Briefly explain how representations of Susan and the Doctor have been constructed through their costume design

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# Doctor Who Industries

5

## EPISODE 1: 'AN UNEARTHLY CHILD'

Fill in the fact sheet with all missing information

### 'AN UNEARTHLY CHILD' - FACT SHEET

- Initial date of broadcast: \_\_\_\_\_
- Time of broadcast: \_\_\_\_\_
- Original network: \_\_\_\_\_
- Original target audience: \_\_\_\_\_ (particularly older children)
- Series creator: \_\_\_\_\_ (Head of Drama)
- Producer: \_\_\_\_\_ (first women for BBC television)
- Production company: BBC Television (in-house)
- Shooting location: \_\_\_\_\_
- Pilot episode length: 23 minutes 24 seconds
- Episode 1 UK viewing figures: \_\_\_\_\_
- Average UK viewing figures for first serial: \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly explain why it was more difficult for audiences to watch 'An Unearthly Child' in 1963 than it would be today

Briefly explain why it may have been easier for 'An Unearthly Child' to attract large audiences in 1963 than it would be today

What is a public service broadcaster?

Provide definitions for the following key terms

Pilot -

Transmission -

Identify four technical difficulties that arose during the production of 'An Unearthly Child'

Identify four more technical difficulties that arose during the production of 'An Unearthly Child'

Various re-writes and a sudden change of director caused significant delays in production

Threat of ITV

Identify three more ways in which ITV was threatening the BBC's popularity with audiences

ITV had begun to release popular television shows such as *Coronation Street*

Briefly explain how Sydney Newman ended up employed by the BBC

Oops!

All episodes of 'Child' have available to

original record 1 (featuri

props) is also watch

The the

Will

Man Wri

Carol pro dra v

Explain why casting

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# Doctor Who Context & Audiences

## EPISODE 1: 'AN UNEARTHLY CHILD'

'An Unearthly Child' will mostly have been watched by members of the silent generation and the baby boomer generation.

Identify whether the following values are shared by the silent generation and the baby boomer generation.

- The silent generation is known for a strong and disciplined value system (Teddy given)
- Baby boomers are known for being primarily focused on their careers (already given)
- \_\_\_\_\_ fought in World War II
- \_\_\_\_\_ were born just after the end of World War II
- \_\_\_\_\_ were part of the 1960s civil rights movement
- \_\_\_\_\_ were born during tough economic times
- \_\_\_\_\_ are referred to as the 'Me generation'
- \_\_\_\_\_ are known for being liberal in their youth but becoming more conservative as they age
- \_\_\_\_\_ are known for experimenting with fashion, drugs, art and culture
- \_\_\_\_\_ are often referred to as 'traditionalists'

Consider what the *Doctor Who* franchise has achieved since 'An Unearthly Child' was broadcast. This will give you a better idea of how contemporary audiences will read the episode.

Between 1963 and \_\_\_\_\_, *Doctor Who* continued to run for 26 seasons with \_\_\_\_\_ different actors playing the titular role.

Fill in the missing key terms:  
Jodie Whittaker (seven) (employed) Whovians (2005) 1989 (BBC iPlayer)

*Doctor Who* was rebooted in \_\_\_\_\_ and has continued to run ever since. All episodes from this point onwards are available on \_\_\_\_\_ and are continuing to enthrall younger generations.

*Doctor Who* has a following of loyal fans, many of whom call themselves \_\_\_\_\_.

In 2017, British actor \_\_\_\_\_ was announced as the thirteenth doctor (54 years after 'An Unearthly Child' was initially broadcast). The casting decision suggests that more women are being \_\_\_\_\_ in multiple departments of \_\_\_\_\_ in script development, production, etc. Many audiences said that it was \_\_\_\_\_ of time \_\_\_\_\_ was cast in the role.

What the contemporary critics responded to the episode?

When 'An Unearthly Child' was broadcast, the critical reception to the series was fairly mixed. There were publications that praised the show's premise and camerawork, claiming that it was a series that audiences will want to keep watching to find out what happens next. However, many reviewers (notably *The Guardian*) criticised the show for its childish premise and the underwhelming character development.

How does the character of the Doctor demonstrate 'core' English values?

Provide a contextual reference in 'An Unearthly Child'

Uses and Gratifications	
Entertainment/ Diversion	• Dialogue
Information	• Audience
Personal Identity	• Ian and Barbara
Social Interaction	• Might



- HOW TO USE THIS SHEET
- Brainstorm
- Filter
- Finalise
- In no more than 100 words, explain how the social...

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# HIS DARK MATERIALS:

## 7 MEDIA LANGUAGE

SERIES 2.  
EPISODE 1:  
'THE CITY  
OF MAGPIES

Fill in the missing words below.  
multi-strand | CH/agece | main | Magisterium |  
serial | minor | fifteen | abandoned

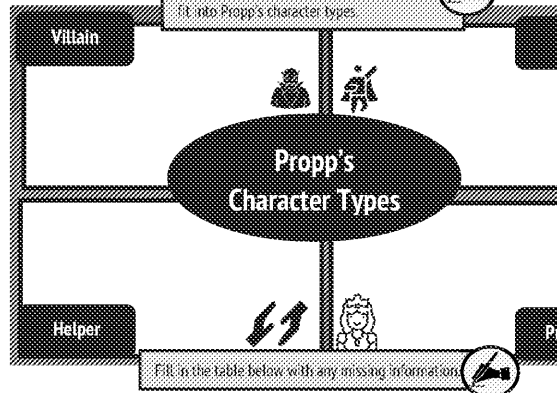
The narrative structure of 'The City of Magpies' is more complex than that of a film or a TV episode with an isolated storyline...

- As a \_\_\_\_\_, the narrative progression in *His Dark Materials* occurs over several episodes (eight episodes in series one and seven episodes in series two). Conflicts are set up and resolved throughout the episode. Conflicts (e.g. the theories and issues surrounding the Magisterium) are resolved over several episodes.
- Due to this being a \_\_\_\_\_, there are a number of narratives that run through this episode. They include:
  - Lyra and Will find themselves in a new city in a new world - \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Mrs Coulter lets the head of the \_\_\_\_\_ die in a bid to find answers.
  - Lee Scoresby is on a separate quest to gain an item to help protect Lyra.
  - Lyra and Will discover the dangerous secrets of the city and meet the children who have been \_\_\_\_\_ by their parents running from soul-stealing spectres.

Levi Strauss | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_

List examples of binary oppositions used in the episode.

State how the characters in the set episode fit into Propp's character types.



Fill in the table below with any missing information.

### Codes and conventions of the major genres

Drama

Fantasy

Family



Identify three more genre codes and conventions of each genre that feature in 'The City of Magpies'.

Drama	Fantasy	Family
Ensemble cast	Magical daemons	Dedicated fan base

Briefly explain how CGI has changed television and its impact in the set episode.

Technical code	Definition
Over-the-shoulder shot	A subject is filmed from behind another person's shoulder.
Close-up shot	A very close shot of a subject.
Establishing shot	A wide shot that shows the location.
Extreme CU	A very specific part of a subject is framed at close range.
Canted angle	The camera is slanted so horizontal lines do not run in parallel within the frame.
Tracking shot	The camera moves through a location, often in conjunction with a particular person or subject.
Close-up shot	The subject or character's face fills the entire frame.
Wide-angle shot	Shot of a wide landscape, often with multiple components within the frame.
High-angle shot	The camera is situated above the main subject of the frame.
Low-angle shot	The camera is situated below the main subject of the frame.

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**Subverting gender stereotypes within the show**

Identify examples in 'The City of Magpies' where the following characters display the following qualities

Character	Quality	Example
Lyra	Powerful	
	Confident	
	Independent	
Mrs Coulter	Intelligent	
	Cold-hearted	
	Not maternal	
Will	Kind	
	Caring	
	Domestic	

Explain how the following fears are represented in 'The City of Magpies'. An example analysis has been provided for you.

**Representations constructed through fantasy**

**Fear of the unknown:** The spectres possess fantastical powers that human nature is afraid of our encounters with the unknown beyond past experience to help us navigate it.

Loss of innocence / Fear of growing up

Fear of institutionalism:

Fill in the gaps below: rebellious / mature / practical / want / stereotypes

How is the representation of Lyra different from that in 'An Unearthly Child'?



# HIS DARK MATE REPRESENTATION

## SERIES 2. EPISODE 1: 'THE CITY'

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the characters within both this episode and the series are children who do not need adults to assist them.

The representation of young characters is generally very positive and \_\_\_\_\_ for traditional television. For example:

- Lyra is a complex, intelligent and mature character who doesn't need assistance from adults.
- The abandoned children within the city display their survival skills and how they do not need adults to survive.

There is also a **subverting** of adult parental \_\_\_\_\_ through the character of Mrs Coulter. She is a mother who is not \_\_\_\_\_ and actually dangerous for her child.

Many of the children in the episode do however display some **stereotypical traits** for their young age: there is a core \_\_\_\_\_ for parental figures from the abandoned children within the city, and Lyra is a generally \_\_\_\_\_ child who pushes against the guidance from her mother.



**Social class representation**

Discuss how different social classes are represented in the set episode using the characters listed below.

Mrs Coulter

The abandoned children

**Male representation within the episode**

Analyse how gender is represented using the characters listed below.

- Will...
- Lee Scoresby...

**Female representation within the episode**

- Lyra...
- Mrs Coulter...

His Dark Materials – the

Match the actors to the characters they play.

Character
Lyra Belacqua
Will Parry
Mrs Coulter
Pantalaimon
Lee Scoresby

Actor	Character
Dafne Keen	British-Spanish young actress
Amir Wilson	English-Sudanese young actor
Ruth Wilson	English actress
Kit Connor	English young actor
Lin-Manuel Miranda	American actor, composer, singer, rapper, film-maker

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# HIS DARK MATERIALS: INDUSTRIES

## SERIES 2. EPISODE 1: 'THE CITY OF MAGPIES'

Fill in the missing pieces of information.

Adaptation:

Co-commissioned:

### 'THE CITY OF MAGPIES' – FACT SHEET

- Initial date of broadcast in UK:
- Time of broadcast:
- Original network UK:
- Initial international broadcast:
- Series creator:
- Commissioning company:
- Distributor:
- Production company:
- Episode length:
- Episode UK viewing figures:



Advantages and disadvantages of the BBC and HBO collaborating on this show.

Identify some of the advantages and disadvantages of the BBC and HBO collaborating on this show.

Advantages

Disadvantages

Briefly explain the difference between global marketing and regional marketing. Provide examples for each term.

Why was it important for the BBC to gain the rights to this fantasy series?

What are the differences between public service broadcasters like the BBC and premium television networks like HBO? How does their focus differ?

Identify three ways in which *His Dark Materials* was marketed prior to its release.

*His Dark Materials* has been made available on the following platforms...

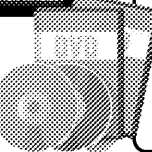
Which other platforms has *Class* been made available to watch on?

HBO → 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020

→ 28<sup>th</sup> November 2020

→ 28<sup>th</sup> December 2020

→ 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021



*His Dark Materials* is an HBO series that first came out on the BBC. The first series was on the network from 9pm.

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# HIS DARK MATERIALS: CONTEXT & AUDIENCE

## SERIES 2. EPISODE 1: 'THE CITY OF MAGPIES'

Fill in the missing words: J.R.R. Tolkien | Literary | Fantasy | Cultural phenomenon | George MacDonald

*His Dark Materials* is a television series based upon a trilogy of books written by \_\_\_\_\_ that consists of \_\_\_\_\_ (1995), *The Beetle Knife* (1997) and *The Amber Spyglass* (2000).

The books are generally marketed under the genre of \_\_\_\_\_ due to the main protagonists being teenagers. However, they do include very clear \_\_\_\_\_ genre conventions such as witches and demons.

The fantasy genre is a genre that can be traced back to the beginning of time and the stories of legends and folklore. The first explicit fantasy work of literature was traced back to the 1800s with authors such as \_\_\_\_\_. The works of \_\_\_\_\_ were seen as a precursor to the genre. The genre was explicitly established and did much to \_\_\_\_\_ the genre would be widely popular with audiences. The fantasy genre is an \_\_\_\_\_ with series such as *Game of Thrones* and *House of the Dragon* keeping the spark alive.

Who are the target audience?



How was the audience targeted?

### *His Dark Materials* and organised religion

The series *His Dark Materials* has generated its fair share of controversy, most notably around its comparisons to organised religion – mainly the Catholic Church. Within the series the Magisterium works on behalf of the Church and tries to ensure that all scientific discoveries that may lead people to question their religion are kept closely guarded. The Church within the series has spies everywhere and actively tries to eliminate threats to its belief systems, such as Lord Asriel and his discovery of dust.

How have some critics described Pullman's stance towards religion? How does Pullman describe his stance towards religion?

What is the BBFC rating for the show, and why?

How many people watched the opening episode of series 2 compared to the opening episode of series 1?

Uses and Gratifications	Identification
Entertainment/ Diversion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creative and exciting genre that has _____ possibilities</li> </ul>
Information	
Personal Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diverse cast – wide range of ethnicities, backgrounds and sexualities to connect with</li> </ul>
Social Interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Episodes can be discussed among audiences in social situations (e.g. at work)</li> </ul>

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