

2017 specification
Exams from 2024

GCSE Eduqas Cover Lessons

Component 2A: Sitcoms: *Man Like Mobeen and Friends*

Second Edition, August 2022

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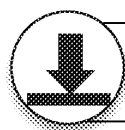
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Teacher's Introduction

This pack is designed to provide handy cover lessons for GCSE (9–1) Eduqas (C680QS) Media Studies Component 2: Understanding Media Forms and Products, Section A – Sitcoms, specifically the products for assessment from **2024**: *Man Like Mobeen* and *Friends*.



Pages from this resource which are relevant to the set products for final assessment in **2023** are available on the ZigZag Education support files system, which can be accessed via zzed.uk/productsupport

A total of 10 cover lessons for Component 2 Section A have been provided. The lessons are roughly one hour long and are divided into the key concepts with an additional two lessons on context. All of the lesson objectives that are included follow Bloom's taxonomy to provide structure that supports lower-ability students and pushes those with higher abilities, which are also reflected in the activities. Extension activities are included for students who need additional work within the lessons.

Remember!

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

There are plenty of opportunities within the lessons for discussion and feedback, and answers have been provided to allow self-, peer- or teacher-marking of the completed work, whether it is a whole lesson or single activity being used.

This pack focuses specifically on *Man Like Mobeen* (Series 1, Episode 2: Wifey Riddim (2019)) throughout, with a mixture of additional products (including Season 1, Episode 1 of *Friends*) used to provide students with a more rounded study of their key concepts. Students should have ideally already watched the set episodes before you use the cover lessons with your class.

Homework tasks are provided for each of the key concepts to support learning outside school.

August 2022

2nd edition, August 2022

This resource has been updated in line with specification changes to set products for exams from 2024. Changes have been made throughout.

Free Updates!

Register your email address to receive any future free updates* made to this resource or other Media Studies resources your school has purchased, and details of any promotions for your subject.

* resulting from minor specification changes, suggestions from teachers and peer reviews, or occasional errors reported by customers

Go to zzed.uk/freeupdates


Cover Lesson Overview Table

Lesson No.	Lesson Objectives	Lesson Outline and Suggestions	Key Terms	Resources
1	<p>Investigating the Set Episode</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Summarise the set text 2. Compare <i>Man Like Mobeen</i> with other sitcoms 3. Suggest reasons for the focus of the episode 	<p>The lesson introduces students to the set text and allows them to create a list of other sitcoms that they can compare to <i>Man Like Mobeen</i>, in order to understand the genre in more detail.</p>	<p>Summarise Compare Context Similarity Reference Element Character Social Cultural Audience Settings Air time Distribution Production Cast Producers</p>	<p>Worksheets only</p>
2	<p>Social and Cultural Context</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify social or cultural references in the set text 2. Deconstruct a cultural reference in detail 3. Choose other social and cultural references that have been 	<p>The lesson introduces students to the social and cultural context of the episode. They detail any areas of the episode they are unfamiliar with, before exploring an example from the show in detail in preparation for the</p>	<p>Context Cultural Element Historical Social Identify Deconstruct Stereotype Audience</p>	<p>Worksheets only</p> <p>Please be aware that some students will have preconceived ideas about some of the issues within the episode. This lesson</p>

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Lesson No.	Lesson Title and Learning Objectives	Lesson Outline and Suggestions	Key Terms	Resources
3	 <p>Setting the Scene</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define mise en scène 2. Determine examples of mise en scène 3. Write about media language used in the set text convincingly 	<p>Students gain an understanding of the term mise en scène and consider the link between the term and media language as a whole. They analyse parts of the set episode as an extension activity.</p>	<p>Mise en scène Close-up / extreme close-up Define Determine High angle / bird's-eye view Low angle shot / extreme close-up Low angle shot Low angle / worm's-eye view Media language Medium shot Over-the-shoulder shot Selective focus Wide shot / extreme wide shot Audiovisual Costume Lighting Props Staging Elements Transitions Scene Annotate</p>	<p>Worksheet only</p> <p>English-to-French dictionaries or a link to an online translator are needed for one of the activities.</p>
	UK vs USA		<p>Summarise Differentiate Evaluate Pilot Conventions</p>	

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Lesson No.	Lesson Title and Learning Objectives	Lesson Outline and Suggestions	Key Terms	Resources
5	 <p>Process and Regulation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Determine the different stages of production Revise regulators and regulations of sitcoms Investigate some of the issues sitcoms face 	<p>The process of making an episode is considered alongside the role of the regulator and what sort of things they may be looking for in sitcoms.</p>	<p>Determine Revise Industry Regulator Historical Productions Historical Ratio Production Broadcast Pilot</p>	<p>Worksheet only</p> <p>Students will need to cut out and stick resources as part of an activity.</p>
6	<p>Distribution and Cross-platforming</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Define the watershed Explain the impact of cross-platform marketing on sitcoms Examine the effectiveness of methods of viewing sitcoms 	<p>Students look at the watershed by defining what it is and considering its impact. As well as this they consider viewing methods for modern sitcoms.</p>	<p>Watershed Cross-platform Marketing Examining Distribution Synergy Convergence Audience Subscription Merchandise Streaming Schedule</p>	<p>Worksheet only</p>
7	<p>Hooking an Audience</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Recall the gratifications of Blumler and Katz's theory Examine the impact of repeat programming on audiences Suggest themes within sitcoms that appeal to audiences 	<p>A revision of Blumler and Katz's uses and gratifications theory begins the lesson before the students consider repeat programming – particularly of shows such as <i>Friends</i>.</p>	<p>Gratifications Examine Audience Broadcasting Context Themes Background Streamed Context</p>	<p>Worksheet only</p> <p>Students will need to cut out and stick resources as part of an activity.</p>

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Lesson No.	Lesson Title and Learning Objectives	Lesson Outline and Suggestions	Key Terms	Resources
9	<p>Character Types and Character Theory</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Recall Propp's character types Determine character types within the set and supporting text Suggest reasons for the popularity of characters 	<p>Students revise Propp's character theory and then consider the representations of characters within sitcom as a whole.</p>	<p>Sitcom</p> <p>Determine Narrative</p> <p>Representation</p> <p>call</p> <p>Narrative</p> <p>Audience</p> <p>Summarise</p> <p>Unusual</p> <p>typical</p> <p>Character</p>	Worksheet only
10	<p>Representing Real Life</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Summarise modern society Deconstruct representations within sitcoms Evaluate the success of sitcom representations 	<p>This lesson gets students to consider representations of real life. Students investigate modern life and society and why these might make sitcoms successful.</p>	<p>Summarise</p> <p>Deconstruct</p> <p>Sitcom</p> <p>Representation</p> <p>Gratification</p> <p>Pilot</p> <p>Audience</p>	<p>Worksheet only</p> <p>The Internet is needed for the extension task.</p>

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1. Investigating the Set Episode

By the end of the lesson you will be able to:

1. summarise the set text
2. compare *Man Like Mobeen* to other sitcoms
3. suggest reasons for the focus of the episode

Starter: Summarising the Episode

Complete the summary of the set episode of *Man Like Mobeen* below by using the

To begin with, Mobeen's younger sister _____ is suspended for fighting. Mobeen realises that his initial _____ was that of a big brother and not of a _____ heads to _____ where he speaks to his uncles, who jokingly suggest _____ marriage might be the answer. After picking up a magazine for his _____ Mobeen begins to reflect on what he is _____ her. He tries to speak to her that she might be missing out life _____ that parents would normally teach their children. His friends are _____ on the situation, but Mobeen agrees to try a marriage anyway. He talks to his _____, who arranges a meeting with a girl from their mosque whose daughter may be _____, but at the last minute his uncle drop out, leaving Mobeen to face the meeting with his _____. The meeting _____ and descends into _____. The episode is resolved when Aqsa _____ about his attempted arranged marriage and tells him that she doesn't need a man.

Task 1: Sitcoms

In pairs, create a list of sitcoms. Time yourself and see which pair in your class can

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Task 2: Comparing Sitcoms

Looking at the list of sitcoms you have created as a class, create a list of similarities between *Man Like Mobeen*. Examples have been given in the table below to get you started:

Similarities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centres around a group of characters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The characters are from a specific social or cultural background

Task 3: Behind the Screen

An interesting aspect to *Man Like Mobeen* is the fact that the writer – Guz Khan – is a comedian and a former teacher. Can you find a specific example from the episode that comes from his time as a comedian and is designed to make people laugh, and one that comes from his time as a teacher and is educational?

Comedy:

.....

Education:

.....

Finale: A Different Perspective

Arranged marriages are not something that are common to every audience. Explain why the writer decided to include this so early in the show's first season.

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Extension: A Detailed Investigation

Use the Internet to help you expand on the notes you made today. Create a single page for the set episode of *Man Like Mobeen*.

Aim to include:

- Key characters
- Key settings
- Air dates and time
- Distribution company
- Production company
- Cast and producers



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2. Social and Cultural Context

By the end of the lesson you will be able to:

1. identify social or cultural references in the set text
2. deconstruct a cultural reference in detail
3. choose other social and cultural references that have been explored in sitcoms

Background:

An obvious focus of *Man Like Mobeen* is the Asian community and Islamic faith. Different social groups have always been included within sitcoms, though usually often overly stereotyped. Modern sitcoms take a more positive view and are reflective of a society where audiences are more aware of predominantly under-represented groups within the media.

Furthermore, the show is set in Small Heath in Birmingham. Birmingham is well known but is often thought of as being more impoverished compared to cities such as London. Birmingham and the Black Country are also thought of as being less intelligent than the north of the UK. These negative associations may be something that Guz Khan is trying to combat.

Starter: Learning and Understanding

The producers would have been aware that wider audiences are unlikely to be familiar with the reference within the show. However, it is important that you understand the episode to learn more about other groups within society.

Add to the spider diagram with elements from the episode that you didn't fully understand or included to get you started.

Arranged marriage

**Wifey
Riddim**

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Task 1: Arranged Marriage

The episode centres on Mobeen beginning the process of an arranged marriage. It has often created divisive and polarising attitudes and responses. Again, it is likely (as a teacher) is focusing on this topic to educate audiences and break down a long-standing stereotype as well as including something that some viewers may be familiar with.

Look at the table below. Use the left side to record any stereotypes or negative beliefs regarding arranged marriage. Then, think about how the show challenges these. As you go.

Stereotypes	Representations
The marriage is decided by the parents on behalf of the bride and groom.	The parents may be involved in the introduction, but eventually the marriage is decided by the couple.

Task 2: Context in the Exam

Now that you have identified and discussed different aspects of social and cultural context, how can you include it in your exam?

Thinking about the following structure may help:



For example:

Guz Khan has based the show on an Asian culture; this can be seen through one of the settings, the mosque. This may have been included to tackle the under-representation of Asian culture in British sitcoms.

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mainstream media. It also helps to connect audiences to the show as there will be the characters and settings that are featured.

Use the boxes below to record your own examples before writing it up into a short

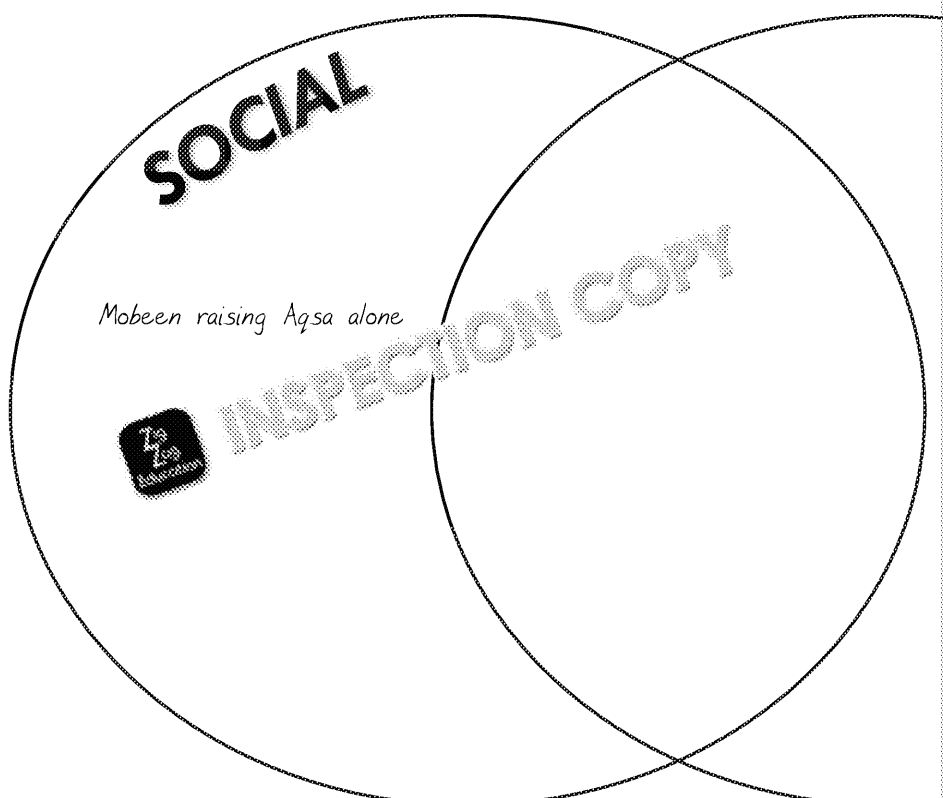
What is included?	Example from the episode



Task 3: Further Context

As mentioned in the background to this lesson, there are other elements of social included in the episode.

Complete the Venn diagram below by adding other contextual references from the given for you.



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Finale: Alternative Context

If you could choose to include any other under-represented social group to feature in your sitcom, which would you choose and why?

Social group:

Justification:

.....

Extension: Other Examples

Complete the spider diagram below by noting down characters or sitcoms that are under-represented in sitcoms and show communities and cultures that have been under-represented. An example is given.

Sheldon Cooper (The Big Bang Theory) - Neurodivergent

**Other
examples**

Homework: Looking to the Future

Create a list of three under-represented social, cultural or historical issues that have not been seen in sitcoms but which could be seen in sitcoms in the future.

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3. Setting the Scene

By the end of the lesson you will be able to:

1. define mise en scène
2. determine examples of mise en scène
3. write about media language within the set text convincingly

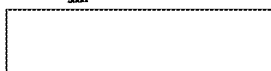
Background:

Analysing media language within moving image / audiovisual texts (such as sitcoms) and analysing it in print (such as magazines, newspapers, etc.), as you may have done in Component 1. In this lesson you'll recap some of the information that you already know and supporting texts for sitcoms.

Starter: Mise en scène

The key term **mise en scène** is French and is a really useful way of breaking down image text such as a television show or film. Use a French dictionary to work out what it means to look at each individual word rather than the term as a whole.

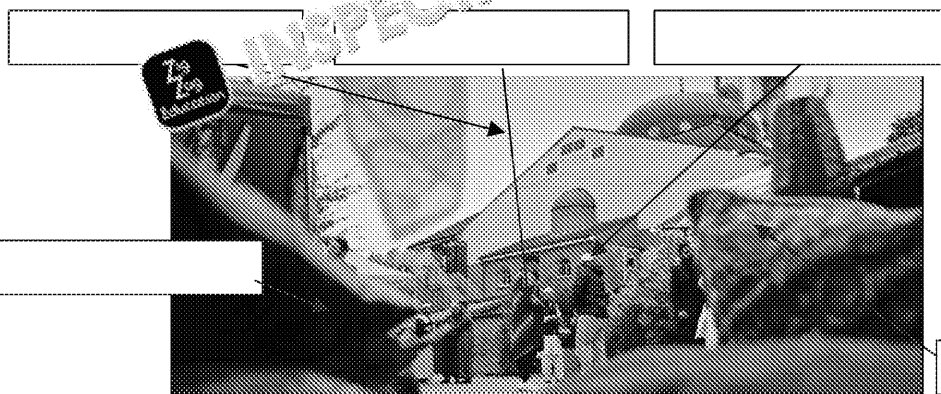
Mise en scène



This term means:

Task 1: Mise en scène in Action

What aspects of mise en scène do you think the arrows are pointing to? Use the labels to label the correct parts of the image.



Man Like Mobeen (Season 1, Episode 2) © Cave Bear Productions / Tiger Aspect Productions, 2011

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Task 2: Why is this Important?

For each of the elements listed below, explain why each of the aspects to mise en scene is important and what they might tell/show the audience.

Setting:

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Lighting:

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Costume/make up:

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Props:

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Staging / camera shot:

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Body language:

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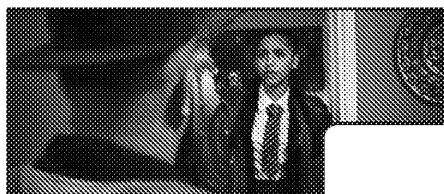
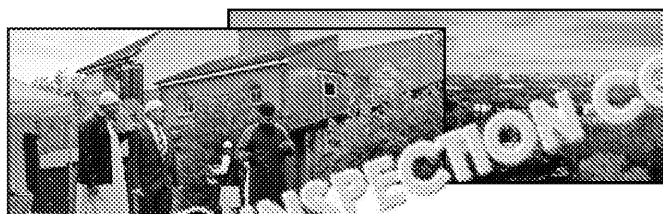
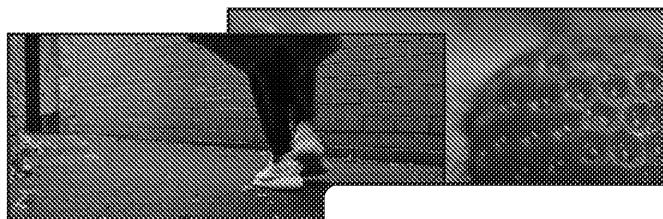
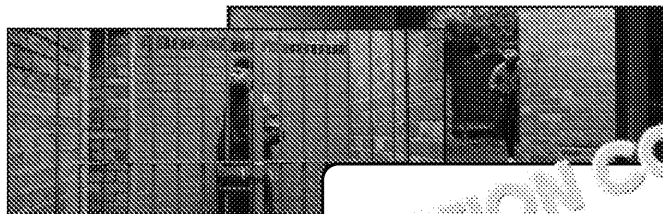
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Task 3: Camera Angles and Transitions

It is not only the staging and set-up of what you see in the episode that is important (the impact on the way you respond. Different camera angles create different effects, one scene moves to another).

- a. Label the camera shots below using the terms in the grey box.




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- b. The table below gives general explanations of the effects created by each camera shot. Can you identify another example of the same shot being used in the episode?

Camera shot	Explanation	Example from <i>Man Like Mobeen</i>
Long shot / extreme long shot	A long shot shows a person's entire body, or the full length of an object. It is the audience to see the character and how they react to their surroundings. An extreme long shot will make the character seem smaller and more vulnerable.	
Mid shot	This shows the top or bottom half of a person. It is used to emphasise body language and the character's movements, and makes them the focus of the scene.	
Close-up / extreme close-up	A close-up shows significant items, character reactions or movements. These shots tend to emphasise things that are significant to the storyline.	
Wide shot / extreme wide shot	A wide shot shows a large area and helps to set the scene. An extreme wide shot can sometimes be called an establishing shot as it helps to emphasise where the action takes place.	
Over the shoulder shot	This shot is taken over the shoulder of one of the characters. It puts the audience in the character's position as if they are looking at things only from that character's perspective.	
Selective focus	Selective focus makes one part of the shot clear, while the other is slightly blurred. It helps the audience notice what is important without cutting to a new shot altogether.	

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- c. There are many transitions and camera movements within the episode. Two effect do you think each transition creates? Make notes below each example



Split screen:

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Jump cuts:

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Man Like Mobeen (Season 1, Episode 2) © Cave Bear Productions / Tiger Aspect Productions, 2017

Finale: Common Camera Movements

It is likely that you already know the names of other common camera movements that appear in the episode. Using your own knowledge, or a dictionary, can you give the names of the movements below?

1. The camera moves from side to side to show the setting or character:

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2. The camera gets closer or further away from a character, situation, item or scene:

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3. The camera is in front of, or behind the character (or action) and moves with them:

.....

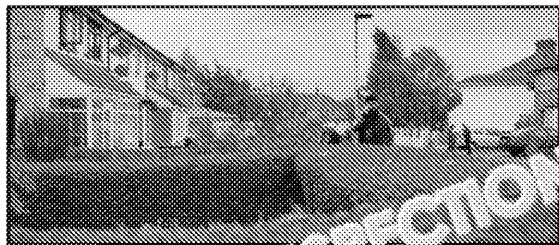
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Extension: Scene Analysis

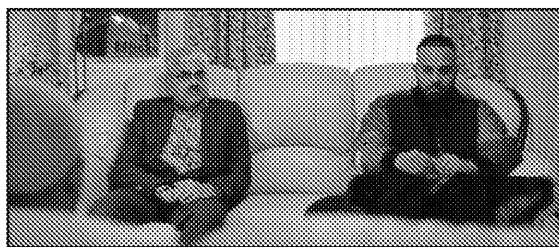
Take a look at the images below; they have been taken from a key scene in the set arranged marriage meeting.

Analyse the media language in the images below. You can begin by annotating the first image. Your analysis should be 1–2 paragraphs long. An example has been given to get you started, or continue on to the second image.



Man Like Me (Season 1, Episode 2) © Cave Bear
Produced by Tiger Aspect Productions, 2017

The setting is generic and could be UK, making it more relatable to the audience. However, by making it his own, it makes him seem isolated and encourages the audience to sympathise with him. This makes the setting more awkward.



Man Like Mobeen (Season 1, Episode 2) © Cave Bear
Productions / Tiger Aspect Productions, 2017



Man Like Mobeen (Season 1, Episode 2) © Cave Bear
Productions / Tiger Aspect Productions, 2017

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4. UK vs USA

By the end of the lesson you will be able to:

1. summarise your existing knowledge of American sitcoms
2. differentiate the conventions used in the different types of sitcom
3. evaluate the effectiveness of the set and supporting texts

Background:

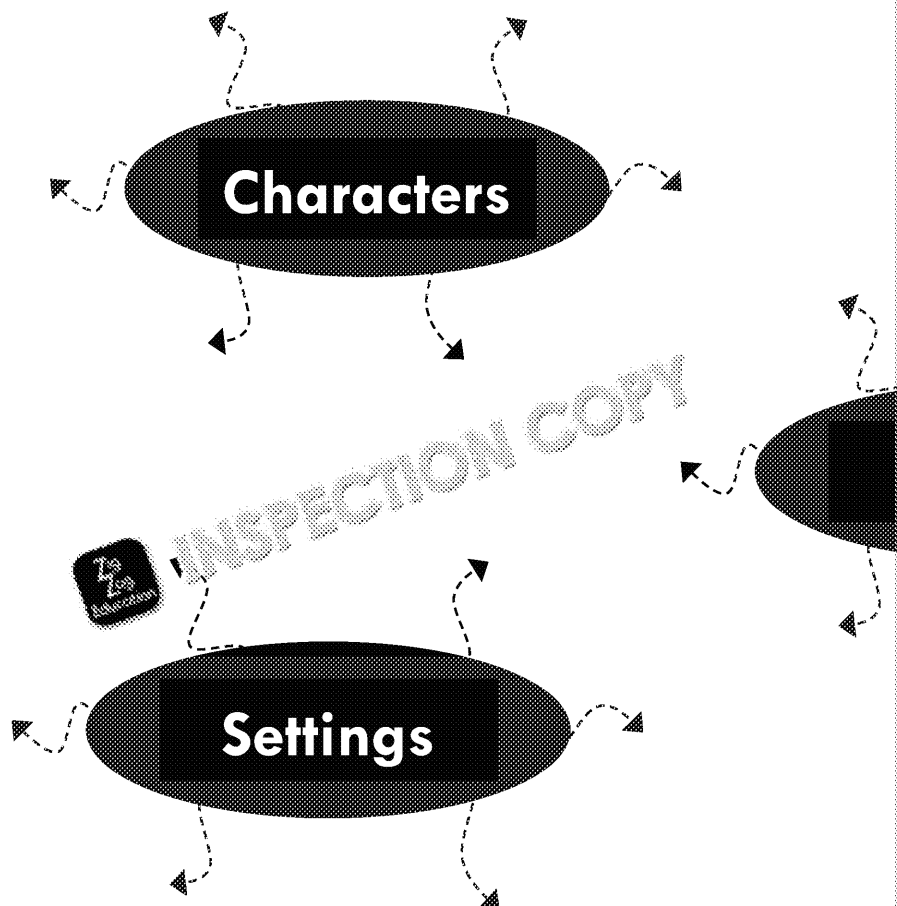
Some of the more famous and widely known sitcoms – such as your supporting USA. These shows often dominate UK television, making it hard for home-grown there are multiple examples where shows from the UK have inspired spin-offs an example of this is *The Office*.

There are significant differences between the media language used in US and UK investigate the set a greater understanding of the set texts and genre as a whole

Starter: *Friends*

Despite being produced in 1994, the sitcom *Friends* has stood the test of time and audiences even today due to reruns on popular channels such as E4 and Comedy

Summarise what you already know about *Friends*, using the headings given to you point your answers underneath the headings, or use them as the centre of spider



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Task 1: The Pilot

Using the information gathered and the class feedback from the starter activity, what is humorous about the first episode of *Friends*.

.....

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Task 2: Sitcom Conventions

Take a look at the conventions listed below.

- Highlight those that are used in UK sitcoms.
- Using the UK conventions as a guideline, fill in the empty table with conventions of sitcoms made in the USA. You can also add your own observations from your research. The table has been completed for you.

UK Sitcom Conventions
Short series (usually 6–10 episodes)
Regional language and dialects are often mocked
National stereotypes are played upon
The narratives are often believable
Often include stand-up comedians in 'cameo' roles
Locations are vague rather than specific
Low-budget productions
The shows maintain longevity, often going beyond five series
'Stock' characters are often used
Location-based filming
Well-known actors often take on roles within the series
Costumes are often exaggerated for comedic effect
Intertextual references are often used
Laugh tracks are often included to mimic an audience
Limited to one or two writers



American Sitcom Conventions
High-budget productions

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Task 3: Comparing Sitcoms

Evaluate both the set episode of *Man Like Mobeen* and the pilot of *Friends*. Explain the media language that is used in each and give an evaluative comment about how successful each episode is.

Man Like Mobeen

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Friends

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Finale: A Direct Comparison

Use the tweet bubble below to directly compare the element of your main text (*Man Like Mobeen*) with the element of your other text (*Friends*). Remember no more than 140 characters!



10:01am · 18 April 2016

2438 RETWEETS

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Extension: Subjectivity

Define the term **subjective** and explain how subjectivity might explain the differences between the two versions.

Homework: A New Sitcom

Using the media language boxes below, plan a new sitcom to compete with *Man Like Mobeen*.

SETTING



NA

CHARACTERS



CLOTH

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5. Process and Regulation

By the end of the lesson you will be able to:

1. determine the different stages of production
2. revise regulators and regulations of sitcoms
3. investigate some of the issues sitcoms face

Background:

You may have already investigated some of the regulators within the media industry in Component 1. Although they may seem funny and frivolous in their content, sitcoms face the same scrutiny as other media forms.

Recently, there have been concerns made of historical products, including *Friends* (Chandler's cross-dressing in *Joey* and for its representation of men). The humour of something that could easily slip into being controversial – what is funny at the time can be funny several years in the future.

Starter: The Regulator

Fill in five things that the regulator Ofcom (Office of Communications) would check.

Regulator: Ofcom

It checks:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

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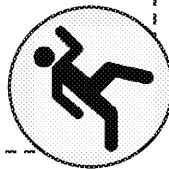
Task 1: The Production Process



Cut out the boxes below and arrange them in the correct order to show the production process for many television shows, including sitcoms.



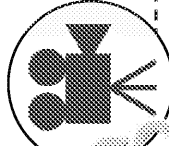
A show runner is hired to ensure that the plans are structured as closely as possible.



The network will give the show a final check before it is released, to ensure that it fits with the advertising and sponsorship it may have as well as other shows either side of it.



If the studio/network agrees to take on the project, it is given the 'green light' to go ahead. The production and post-production processes are then determined.



Filling begins. This may be shot on location (for which permits will need to have been obtained), or in a studio, which allows a live audience to watch.

Editing takes place in post-production before it

During post-production the production company and studio will approach networks

While the show is being produced, a team will be marketing it to help make sure

The production company will source a studio. The studio will provide the money needed to

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Task 2: Stages of Production

Go back through the steps you ordered for Task 1. Using three colours, colour-code each step and label it to show which stage of production it belongs in:

1. Pre-production
2. Production
3. Post-production

Task 3: *Man Like Mobeen* in the Future

Think about the set text that you have studied – some of the humour could be considered as point examples from the show that could face criticism in the future if a different show (like *Friends* in the 'Background' section) did it. For each example, explain *why* it is an example that has been done for you.

- Mobeen makes a joke about his Uncle Habib being 'banned from the swimming pool'.

•

•

•

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•

•

Finale: Exit Ticket

Complete the card to exit the lesson. Note down **one** thing that you have learnt in this lesson.

Name:

Today I learnt:

.....

.....

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Extension: Pilot Season

'Pilot Season' in the USA is an extremely important part of the production process in the industry as a whole. Create a fact file of what it is and what it involves.



6. Distribution and Cross-platfo

By the end of the lesson you will be able to:

1. define the watershed
2. explain the impact of cross-platform marketing on sitcoms
3. examine the effectiveness of methods of viewing sitcoms

Background:

The content of a television show will often determine when and how it is distributed. It can be completely inappropriate to air a programme with explicit references at a time when children are watching; because of this, a **watershed** time occurs in almost every country across the world.

Some countries have a watershed as part of law, while for others it is an unwritten rule. Shows with more explicit content can be aired after a particular time (9pm in the UK).

However, there are other influences on what can be shown. For example, subscription channels have channels that allow more explicit content.

Starter: Investigating the Watershed

Put each television show into the correct category – is it pre- or post-watershed?

Shows

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| • <i>Man Like Mobeen</i> | • <i>Friends</i> | • |
| • <i>Newsround</i> | • <i>EastEnders</i> | • |
| • <i>This Morning</i> | • <i>Homes Under the Hammer</i> | • |
| • <i>24 Hours in A&E</i> | | |

Pre-watershed

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Task 2: How to View

The distribution methods below are used for either *Man Like Mobeen*, *Friends* or sitcoms). For each, give three advantages and three disadvantages of using this method.

On TV (either original air or repeats)	Hard Copy (DVDs)
Advantages:	Advantages:
•	•
•	•
•	•
Disadvantages:	Disadvantages:
•	•
•	•
•	•

Task 3: Convergence and Synergy

Many sitcoms use synergy (partnering with different companies to help market the show). This is often in the form of T-shirts with well-known catchphrases on them. Many sitcoms have official websites which is a form of convergence for the show.

However, neither the set text from *Man Like Mobeen* or *Friends* has a website.

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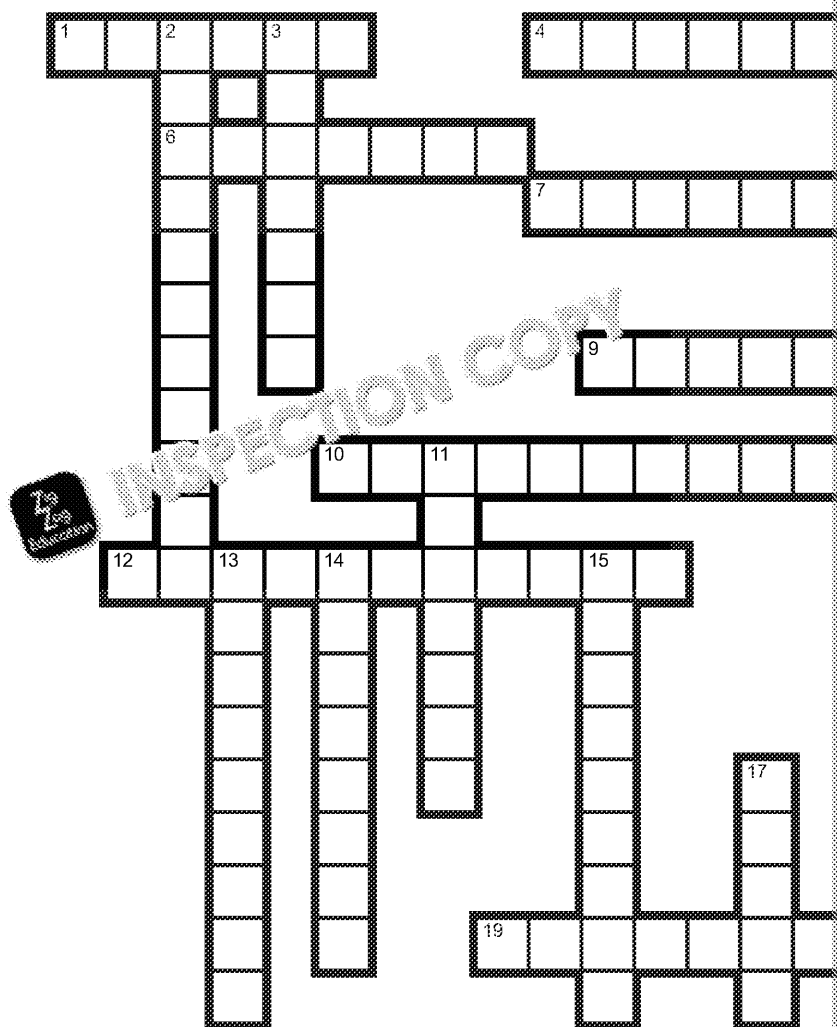
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Finale: Crossword



Across

- 1 The channel that distributes Man Like Mobeen. (3,3)
- 4 The main phase of making a television series or film. (10)
- 6 A broadcasting channel such as the BBC could be considered a _____.
- 7 The place online the audience can go to find more information about the show. (7)
- 9 9pm in television scheduling is known as this. (9)
- 10 Putting a show out on DVD or across channels is known as _____.
- 12 Coffee mugs are an example of Friends ______. (11)
- 18 A hard copy of a television show or film would be a _____.
- 19 When a show creates negative criticism it creates ______. (11)

Down

- 2 This term describes using multiple platforms to market a product. (11)
- 3 A major streaming service that can be accessed online or through apps. (7)
- 5 The name given to the list of programmes and adverts a particular channel has. (7)
- 8 The organisation that funds a television show is known as a _____.
- 11 The technical term for two or more companies working together. (7)
- 13 OFCOM are the _____ for television and radio. (9)
- 14 Owning merchandise that isn't online means that the audience own a _____.
- 15 The technical name for watching a film or television show online. (9)
- 16 When a television channel chooses to put a show on air they _____.
- 17 The opening episode of a television show. (5)

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Extension: Spin-off Shows

Following the popularity of *Friends*, a spin-off surrounding Joey's character was created, but it was nowhere near as successful as the original show.

1. Explain why this may have been the case
2. Plan a spin-off show around one of the characters from *Man Like Mobeen*. Explain why it will be successful.

Homework

Design a website for *Man Like Mobeen*. Label your illustrations explaining the choice of images.



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7. Hooking an Audience

By the end of the lesson you will be able to:

1. recall the gratifications of Blumler and Katz's theory
2. examine the impact of repeat programming on audiences
3. suggest themes within sitcoms that appeal to audiences

Background:

As you may have found out from your study of Component 2, audiences choose different reasons. Theorists Blumler and Katz summarised this in their uses and

Another reason why audiences engage with sitcoms is because they offer light-heartedness that they don't present heavy drama. This means that they require less concentration. Passive audiences from a variety of backgrounds who use the sitcom in different ways. Some might laugh at or to laugh with when they get themselves into awkward

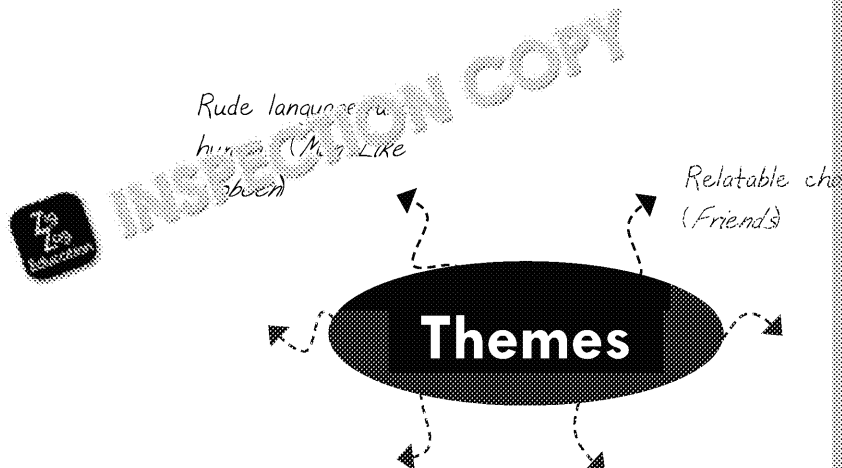
Starter: Anagrams

Unscramble the words below to give the five gratifications of Blumler and Katz's

1. tnofiamoinr
2. ngklati npiot
3. ylaretilabit
4. cseepa
5. ntanteemtnrie

Task 1: Common Themes

So, what keeps audiences coming back to sitcoms? Thinking about *Man Like Mobeen* spider diagram reasons why viewers might choose to watch sitcoms and their reasons. Note whether your reason applies to *Man Like Mobeen*, *Friends* or both!



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Task 2: Finding Examples


Thinking about the different gratifications, can you find examples from the set episodes that fit each of the different gratifications? One has been done for you.

Gratification	Example
Information	<i>Educates the audience on the difference between a</i>
Talking point	
Relatability (to characters, events, settings)	
Escape (from daily life)	
Entertainment	

Task 3: Repeat Programming

Some shows, such as *Friends*, have their episodes played through again after they have first been broadcast. This type of repeat programming is known as **repeat broadcasting**. This can be very useful for a show to broaden its audience.

Think about the repeats of *Friends* that are aired on E4 and streamed on Netflix. What audience is for the show for the repeat broadcasts? Cut out the audiences and stick them into the boxes below.

PRIMARY	SECONDARY
<div>  <p>24–34-year-olds. They are likely to be a passive audience who watch the show to escape their daily lives.</p> </div>	<div> <p>35–50-year-olds. Original fans of the show who watch for nostalgia and to relate to the characters and situations.</p> </div>


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Finale: *Man Like Mobeen*

Friends is widely known as having repeat episodes, but *Man Like Mobeen* is not re-run material. So what is the reason why you think this could be.

Extension: Context and Influence

Think about  as a whole and see whether you can answer the following questions. Use *Like Moby-Dick* as examples to support what you are saying.

Explore the issues, ideas and beliefs in society that could explain why

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8. The Test of Time

By the end of the lesson you will be able to:

1. explain the difference in audiences between the set and supporting text
2. determine what makes a show as successful as *Friends*
3. investigate the relatability for the audience

Background:

Friends was created in 1994 and spanned 10 seasons until its final episode in 2004. It has been aired on repeat through several terrestrial channels, such as Channel 4, E4 and BBC. It is also available to stream on subscription sites such as YouTube, Netflix and Amazon Prime.

Man Like Mobeen hasn't enjoyed as much success as *Friends*, though it is still in production. It is currently underway for a second series and is also distributed via the BBC, a company that does not have commercial aims.

Starter: Comparing Audiences

Use the table below to compare the similarities and differences between the audience for *Friends* and the audience for *Man Like Mobeen*. Examples have been included to get you started.

Similarities	Differences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The primary audiences for the initial air dates were roughly 18-30-year-olds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The audience for <i>Friends</i> was predominantly white, middle-class, and from the Northeast.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
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Task 1: Why So Popular?

Look at the reasons listed below for the continuing popularity of *Friends*. Cut out in order, showing what you believe to be the most important reasons for the show's

'Friends' are something that all audiences can relate to.

The humour is

There are so many characters that they appeal to different audiences.

Actors have

The situations are relatable to day-to-day life and are not out of the ordinary.

The show makes the

Storyline is 'gossipy' to keep the audience hooked and interested.

The show had guest stars like Bruce Willis

The discussion about the show can span generations.

It's easy watching with no background or context

Task 2: Investigating *Man Like Mobeen*

To begin with, look back over the reasons given in Task 1. Highlight those that also

Following this, summarise below the reasons you believe that *Man Like Mobeen* has as *Friends*.

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Finale: Settings and Audience

Think about settings seen within the show.

- a) Make a list of the different settings that feature in the two episodes you have watched.

<i>Man Like Mobeen</i>	
•	•
•	•
•	•
•	•

- b) Which do you think a teenage audience would find more relatable? Why?

Most relatable setting:	
Reasons why it is the most relatable:	

Extension: Increasing the Audience

Create three methods that you could use to increase the audience of *Man Like Mobeen* and *Friends* to explain your ideas.

-
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Homework: A New Character

One of the reasons that *Friends* may have stood the test of time is that the characters were relatable to a large audience.

Create a Facebook profile for a new character that you could introduce to *Man Like Mobeen*. Justify the choices that you have made.

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9. Character Types and Tropes

By the end of the lesson you will be able to:

1. recall Propp's character theory
2. determine character types within the set and supporting text
3. suggest reasons for the popularity of characters

Background:

One of the reasons for a successful sitcom is the characters that feature within it. Characters can be divided into two different categories: those whom we laugh at and those whom we laugh with. A successful sitcom often uses a mixture of both to make the show more enjoyable and to increase the audience's engagement.

Characters, though, can also be defined based upon Propp's theory. He studied different types of characters in folktales and identified the different roles that characters could fill.

Starter: Matching Propp's Characters

Look at the characters from *Man Like Mobeen* and *Friends*. Draw lines to match each character to the type suggested by Propp.

Man Like Mobeen

Mobeen

Aqsa

Nate

Eight

Uncle Habib

Uncle Aday

Ahmed

Khadijah

Propp's Character Types

The Hero

Usually the main character who is sent on a quest to solve.

The Villain

The opposite of the main character. Usually bad/evil.

The Helper

Acts as a sidekick and helps the hero to complete the quest.

The Princess's Prize

A person or prize. The reward for the hero.

The Donor

Assists the hero by giving them something to help their quest.

The Princess's Father / Dispatcher

Gives the hero the quest/reward.

The False Hero

Often mistaken for the hero. Appears throughout.

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Task 1: Character Types

Within *Friends* there are easily recognisable character types. For each of the characters, write down their character type is and what it involves. One has been done to help you.

Chandler: The Wisecracker

As a wisecracker, Chandler will usually take a back seat in discussion to watch what the others are doing. He then has the opportunity to jump into the conversation with one-line jokes that are usually sarcastic.

Joey: The Womaniser

Monica: The Know-it-all

Phoebe: The Flake

Task 2: Characters in *Man Like Mobeen*

The characters within *Friends* are designed to represent the types of people that exist either within their own friendship groups or within their wider social circle. How do you think the same character types to the characters from *Man Like Mobeen*.

Look at the three main characters. For each character, list adjectives that describe them and what that representation would do for the audience. One has been done to help you.

MOBEEN

- Childish
- Jokey
- Loyal
- Kind-hearted

Mobeen is made up of contrasting representations. On the one hand he displays stereotypical young male behaviour as he is jokey and childish. But he is clearly kind-hearted and loyal as he is raising his sister by himself. This makes the audience warm to him.

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Task 3: Popularity of Characters

A YouGov poll in 2018 asked audiences to rank their favourite character from *Friends*.

1. Chandler
2. Joey
3. Phoebe
4. Rachel
5. Ross
6. Monica

Why do you think Chandler is the most popular character?

If you had to rank the three main characters from *Mr. Mike Mobern* in terms of who you like best, what would your order be? Record the information below.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Record your order here:

Create a class poll. Does your order match with the class? Explain why you think it does or why it doesn't.

Finale: You as a Character

Imagine that you are going to be a character in a sitcom. Choose one of the texts and describe your character type.

Text:

Your character type:

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Extension: Representing Settings

Remember that it's not just characters who could be discussed under representation of the show. What are suggested by these representations? An example has been given.

The inside and outside of Mobeen's house:

.....

.....

.....

Friends Central Perk Café: The coffee shop is a central place, so it seems welcoming. The atmosphere is warm and cosy, representing a relaxed environment. This is a stereotypical location for a sitcom.

Friends Monica's Apartment:

.....

.....

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10. Representing Real Life

By the end of the lesson you will be able to:

1. summarise modern society
2. deconstruct representations within sitcoms
3. evaluate the success of sitcom representations

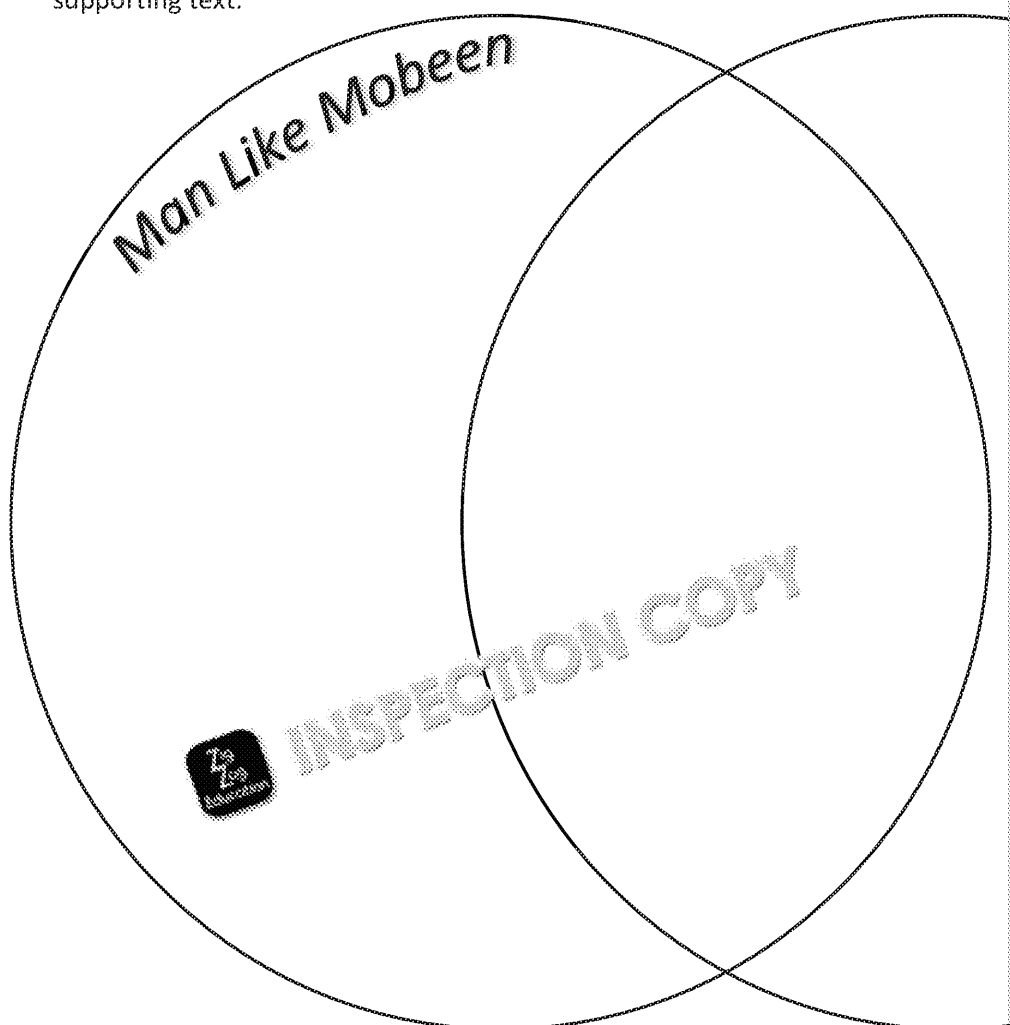
Background:

Sitcoms provide an 'escape from daily life' (Blumler and Katz's uses and gratifications theory) by allowing audiences to watch and get involved in situations that don't crop up in everyday life. This, sitcoms are also able to allow audiences to relate to situations, characters and their uses and gratifications (Blumler and Katz's uses and gratifications theory) by featuring humour in the similar jobs, styles and characters they see on screen.

By fulfilling some of these gratifications, sitcoms are able to have great success as a form of entertainment.

Starter: Real Life?

Use the Venn diagram below to record the aspects of real life that are represented in the sitcom and supporting text.



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Task 1: Modern Life

With a partner, discuss today's modern life. Bullet-point the aspects of today's society shown in sitcoms. Examples have been given for you.

Settings

Example: a modern secondary school

Pe

Example: a loud, noisy

Careers

Example: a fitness instructor

Inte

Example: Brexit

Task 2: Changing Representations

Remember, the set episode from *Man Like Mobeen* was aired in 2017, whereas the original episode was aired in 1994.

Summarise how 'modern life' had changed between the air dates of the two sitcoms.

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Task 3: Representation in *Man Like Mobeen*

Each of the different situations below has been taken from the set episode of *Man Like Mobeen* (episode 2). For each situation, evaluate whether or not it is a successful representation (successful = true to the idea that sitcoms represent real life). Remember to justify your ideas.

Mobeen's sister is suspended from school for fighting	Successful
Justification:	

Mobeen tries to tell Aqsa about boys	Successful
Justification:	

Mobeen decides that an arranged marriage is best for him and Aqsa	Successful
Justification:	

Finale: Applying your knowledge

On the exit ticket below, explain how you can use the knowledge you have gained (and how could you use it in your exam?).

Exit ticket:	
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Extension: Critical Representations

In *Friends*, one of the first things the audiences learn about Ross is that his wife is lesbian. At the time, LGBTQ+ relationships were very rarely shown on television.

Using the Internet to help you, create a timeline of sitcoms to show how far representation (such as LGBTQ+) have developed. Use *Friends* as your starting point.

Homework: Alternative Representations

Choose a sitcom other than *Man Like Mobeen* or *Friends* and investigate the representation of life. Record your findings as a spider diagram to present to the rest of the class.



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1. Investigating the Set Episode

Starter: Summarising the Episode

To begin with, Mobeen's younger sister **Aqsa** is suspended for fighting. Mobeen reacts that of a big brother and not of a **parent**. He heads to his local **mosque** where he suggests an **arranged** marriage might be the answer. After picking up a magazine he reflects on what he is **teaching** her. He tries to speak to her but realises that she might as well as her parents would normally teach their children. His friends are **divided** on the situation. He decides to go ahead with an arranged marriage anyway. He talks to his **Uncle Habib**. He arranges a meeting with a girl whose daughter may be **eligible**, but at the last minute the uncle has to drop out, leaving Mobeen to meet with his **Uncle Shady**. The meeting goes very **awkwardly** and descends into chaos when Aqsa finds out about his attempt at an arranged marriage and tells him that she

Task 1: Sitcoms

Answers can include but are not limited to:

- *The Office*
- *The Inbetweeners*
- *Friday Night Dinner*
- *The Big Bang Theory*
- *Outnumbered*
- *Catastrophe*

Task 2: Comparing Sitcoms

Answers may include:

Similarities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centres around a group of characters • Recognisable locations • Characters are often stereotyped • The characters always have elements that make them relatable • The comedy is often silly or rude • Comedies often reference other kinds of media that the audience will understand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The characters have specific social backgrounds • The comedy often involves being silly or rude • Some comedies are more serious than others. • Some comedies make fun of themselves

Task 3: Behind the Screen

Comedy:

- Mobeen's reaction to his sister being suspended
- The way he talks to his uncles and friends
- The awkward meeting about the arranged marriage

Education:

- What an arranged marriage is
- The dialect and language of both Birmingham and Islam
- The references to nostalgic TV

Finale: A Different Perspective

Answers could include:

- To break stereotypes
- To fit in with the cultural setting of the show
- To give the audience something to identify with or recognise
- It could be something that relates to Khan's own background and culture

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2. Social and Cultural Context

Starter: Learning and Understanding

Responses may include:

- Arranged marriage
- Language such as 'As-salamu alaikum' (Peace be with you)
- Dress codes such as the kufi
- References to older films such as *Three Men and a Cradle* and *The Goonies*

Task 1: Arranged Marriage

Answers could include but are not limited to:

Stereotypes	Representation
The marriage is decided by the parents of the bride and groom.	The parents may set up the marriage but each person is free to accept or reject it if they wish.
The woman has no say in whom she marries.	Khadijah questions Mobeen's choice, and is clearly invested in his happiness.
The couple meet each other at the wedding.	Mobeen's uncles set up the wedding to meet and talk to each other.
The marriage is arranged for business or wealth.	Mobeen is thinking of his sister to have a mother.
Arranged marriages are something that people who are socially awkward or unattractive do.	Kadijah is obviously beautiful and popular, breaking the stereotype. However, in the end, marriage is also common for the characters.

Task 3: Further Context

Answers could include:

Social

- Mobeen raising Aqsa alone
- The furniture outside the front of Mobeen's house
- Mobeen makes a healthy smoothie linking to social movements such as clean eating

Cultural

- The close family and friend community
- The market and mosque setting
- Mobeen's dress codes

Both

- Mobeen listening to his uncle's advice

Extension: Other examples

Answers could include:

- Rajesh Kapali (*The Big Bang Theory*) – Indian representation
- *Will and Grace* – same-sex relationships
- Izzy (*My Mad Fat Diary*) – mental health
- *Fresh Off the Boat* – immigration
- The Pritchett family – *Modern Family* – adoption

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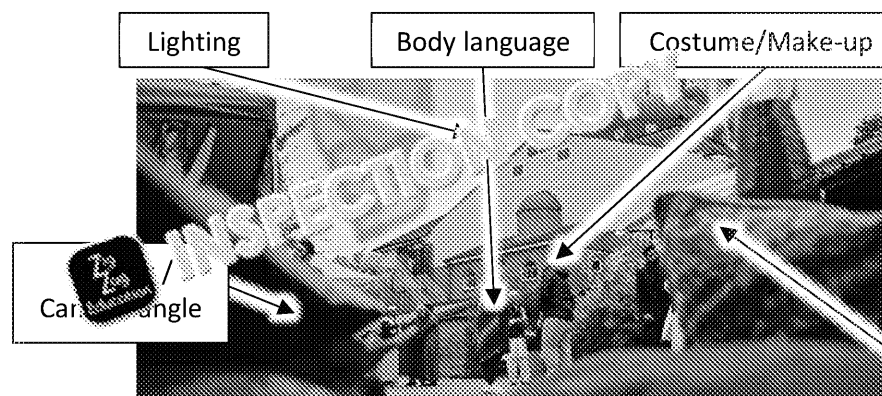


3. Setting the Scene

Starter: Mise en scène

- Setting
- In
- Staging

Task 1: Mise en scène in Action



Man Like Mobeen (Season 1, Episode 2) © Cave Bear Productions / Tiger Aspect Productions

Task 2: Why is this Important?

- **Setting:** This helps to provide a sense of familiarity with the audience as setting is recognisable to the demographic, in this case the audience may recognise the setting.
- **Lighting:** This creates an atmosphere/scene for the audience. They are likely to infer the narrative from the kind of lighting that is used. In this case, the high-key lighting suggests a place to be.
- **Costume/make-up:** Although it is not possible to see the make-up from this image, the man's headwrap here is evidence of his faith and the cultural context of the show.
- **Props:** These help to add detail to a scene. The items are likely to be found in a market stall and also patterned in a way that better represents the Islamic culture.
- **Staging / camera shot:** The shot types are important because they can show the characters. A wide shot like the one in Task 1 allows the audience to see that they are equal and that their gestures may be important, but it is also clear that the audience are watching the scene happen from the other side of the market stall.
- **Body language:** This can often reveal information that a character doesn't verbalise. In this case, Mobeen has his back to the audience, suggesting that the conversation may be private.

Task 3: Camera Angles and Transitions

a. In order of images

Left side images

- Long shot / extreme long shot
- Mid shot
- Close-up / extreme close-up
- Wide shot / extreme wide shot
- Over the shoulder shot

Right side images

- Selective focus
- Low angle / worm's-eye view
- High angle / bird's-eye view

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b. Examples could include:

Camera shot	Explanation
Long shot / extreme long shot	A long shot shows a person's entire body, or the full length of an object. It allows the audience to see the character and how they react to their surroundings. An extreme long shot will make the character seem small and more vulnerable.
Mid shot	This shows the top or bottom half of a person. It is used to emphasise body language and the character's movements, and makes them the focus of the scene.
Close-up / extreme close-up	A close-up shows significant items, character reactions and movements. These shots tend to emphasise things that are significant to the storyline.
Wide / extreme wide shot	A wide shot shows a large area and helps to set the scene. An extreme wide shot can sometimes be called an establishing shot as it helps to emphasise where the action takes place.
Over the shoulder shot	This shot is taken over the shoulder of one of the characters. It puts the audience in the character's position as if they are looking at things only from the character's perspective.
Selective focus	Selective focus makes one part of the shot clear, while the other is slightly blurred. It helps the audience notice what is important without cutting to a new shot altogether.
Low angle / worm's-eye view	The camera looks up at a character or an object and makes them seem taller, stronger and more powerful.
High angle / bird's-eye view	The camera looks down at a character or an object and makes them seem smaller, weaker and more vulnerable.

Finale: Common Camera Shots

1. Pan/panning
2. Zoom
3. Following/tracking

Extension: Scene Analysis

Image 1:

The setting is generic and could represent any street in the UK, making it more relatable. Mobeen is on his own, which makes him seem isolated and more vulnerable. This encourages the audience to sympathise with him and also starts to make the setting more awkward.

Image 2:

The audience already know enough about Uncle Shady to know that the meeting increases the awkwardness which is partly where the humour comes from. The fact that Mobeen is sitting so far apart emphasises how isolated he is and how he has to work through the awkward set-up of the facing sofas is also akin to a job interview, which all audience members can relate to.

Image 3:

The camera angle is low, which gives Khadijah more power – something that is not usually given to women in arranged marriage. The shot is also over the shoulder of Mobeen and Shady, making the audience feel like they are in the lounge with the characters. This increases the empathy that the audience has for Mobeen and makes the humour more immediate.

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4. UK vs USA

Starter: *Friends*

Answers may include but are not limited to:

Characters

- Joey
- Chandler
- Ross
- Monica

Plot

- Rachel/Ross's romance
- Monica's weight
- Joey's career
- Phoebe's back

Settings

- Monica's/Joey's apartment
- Central Perk coffee shop

Task 1: The Pilot

One aspect of the pilot that is humorous is the fact that Rachel has left her fiancé, who she has a history with Monica and Ross, and the beginning of their relationship narrative comes from Ross, whose wife has divorced him after revealing that she was having an affair with this well which means that the audience are often laughing at him. Finally, Mr. Paul the wine guy provides humour as Monica realises he has tricked her.

Task 2: Sitcom Conventions

UK Sitcom Conventions
Short series (usually 6–10 episodes)
Regional language and dialects are often mocked
National stereotypes are played upon
The narratives are often believable
Often include stand-up comedians in 'cameo' roles
Locations are vague rather than specific
Low-budget productions
The shows maintain longevity, often going beyond five series
'Stock' characters are often used
Location-based filming
Well-known actors often take on roles within the sitcom
Costumes are often exaggerated for comedic effect
Intertextual references are often used
Laugh tracks are often included to mimic an audience
Limited to one or two writers



American Sitcom Conventions
National stereotypes
High-budget productions
Sitcoms cover at least as far as 10
'Stock' characters are often used
Sets are often built rather than being on location
'Stock' characters are often used
Well-known actors often take on roles within sitcoms
Costumes are often exaggerated for comedic effect
Intertextual references are often used
Laugh tracks are often included to mimic an audience

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Task 3: Comparing Sitcoms

Man Like Mobeen

The show aims to break down stereotypes by educating the audience about different cultures. Mobeen comes from Birmingham, which is well known for being more multicultural than other locations within the UK. The characters are down to earth but awkward, and their relationships are introduced early on in the series and episode. Mobeen is clearly dominant in his family but is often the butt of the jokes among his family.

Friends

The dynamic between the characters is considered in the pilot episode. Initially, Rachel is the focus; however, backstory is included when she appears. The show plays upon common expectations of gender (such as the idea that men will use a 'pick-up' line to get women) and also exploits; for example, Rachel's presentation as a 'party' blonde is something that is likely to recognise.

Finale: A Direct Comparison

An example of a direct comparison: *Ross and Mobeen are both underdogs. They are both men and women and have been made fun of by other characters.*

Extension: Subjectivity

Definition: an understanding that is influenced by personal feelings or beliefs.

This could explain the differences between UK and US sitcoms as the general life in the UK and the USA are different. For example, there is a larger emphasis on getting together in the UK, which is why a coffee shop may be used as a setting in *Friends*.

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5. Process and Regulation

Starter: The Regulator

The regulator is: Ofcom

It checks the following (answers are not limited to):

1. Misleading comments or suggestions
2. Age-appropriate content
3. Use of children in television shows
4. Avoid glamorising behaviours such as drug-taking / illegal activity
5. Appropriate air times of shows

Tasks 1 and 2: The Production Process and Stages of Production

Key: Pre-production, Production, Post-production

1. The production company will secure a studio. The studio will provide the writers, cast and crew
2. If the studio/network agrees to take on the project, it is given the 'green light' and pre-production processes are then determined.
3. A showrunner is hired to ensure that the plans are stuck to as closely as possible
4. Filming begins. This may be shot on location (for which permits will need to be obtained) or in a studio, which allows a live audience to watch.
5. While the show is being produced, a team will be marketing it to help make it successful
6. Editing takes place in post-production before it goes on air.
7. During post-production the production company and studio will approach networks to broadcast it and when.
8. The network will give the show a final check before it is released, to ensure it meets standards and sponsorship it may have as well as other shows either side of it.

Task 3: *Man Like Mobeen* in the Future

Answers could include but are not limited to:

- Mobeen makes a joke about his uncle Habib being 'banned from the swimming pool' but the conversation implies a crime. This could be difficult in future with mobeen negatively represents a Muslim man.
- Mobeen praises Aqsa for fighting at school. This encourages violence and also a different perspective of solving issues with violence.
- Characters regularly make fun of Mobeen's 'man boobs'. This both sexualises Mobeen and criticises his body image. This could cause issue with the body positivity movement, and also with people who genuinely suffer from gynecomastia.

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6. Distribution and Cross-platforming

Starter: Investigating the Watershed

Pre-watershed:

- Friends
- BBC News
- Newsround
- EastEnders
- Coronation Street
- This Morning
- Homes under the Hammer
- The Simpsons

Post-watershed:

- Man Like Mobeen
- 24 Hours in A&E

Task 2: How to View

On TV

(either original air or repeats)

Advantages:

- Can help to represent a channel's ideology
- Creates a routine for the demographic
- Provides nostalgia (if a repeat episode)

Disadvantages:

- If the audience miss an episode they may stop watching the show
- Limits the audience who can watch the show
- Has to abide by regulator rules

Hard Copy

(DVDs)

Advantages:

- The audience can watch whenever they want to
- The content can be expanded, and special features can be included
- The demographic get to own a piece of merchandise as well as watch the show.

Disadvantages:

- Can be costly if it is a long-running show
- DVDs are becoming more obsolete with the increase in technology
- Limits viewing to the home

Task 3: Convergence and Synergy

Answers could include but are not limited to:

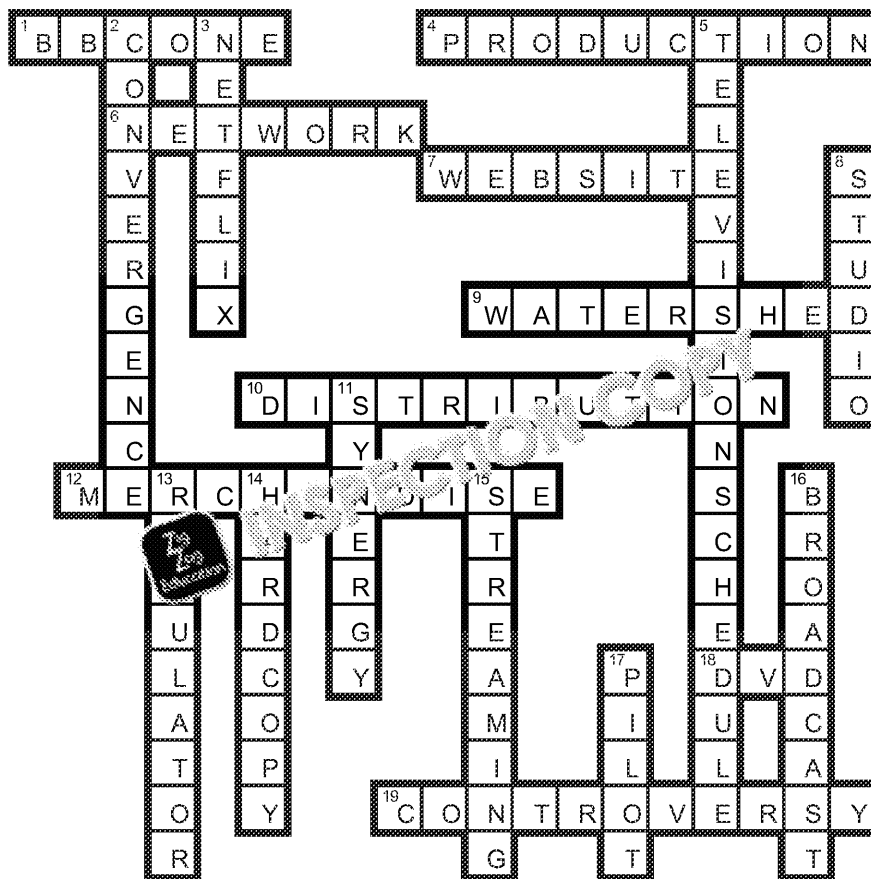
- The show is only available for a short period of time.
- The content of the show may not be appropriate for websites where anyone can access it.
- Websites require constant updating to remain relevant.
- The show may appeal to a small audience, making a website unnecessary.

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Finale: Crossword



Extension: Spin-off Shows

Reasons why *Joey* was not as successful as *Friends* could be:

- The interactions with the other characters in *Friends* helped to create the humour.
- It alienated audiences who didn't like Joey's character.
- The storylines were more repetitive because Joey and his characteristics were the same.

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7. Hooking an Audience

Starter: Anagrams

- information
- talking point
- relatability
- escape

Task 1: Common Themes

Answers may include but are not limited to:

Man Like Mobeen

- The relatable culture.
- The wide range of character ages and backgrounds.

Friends

- The different setting (isn't really for UK audiences).
- The relatable situations.
- The relatable atmosphere.

Both

- Relatable characters or locations.
- The unusual situations provide humour.
- The weekly release dates give the audience something to look forward to.
- Sitcoms can be on in the background while the audience are getting on with their day.
- Humour makes people feel good, so the audience are more likely to want to watch.
- Satirical comedy helps the audience to have a common talking point.

Task 2: Finding Examples

Answers may include but are not limited to:

Gratification	Example
Information	<i>Educates the audience on the difference between an</i>
Talking point	The way that Mobeen is raising his sister is admirable and leads to discussions about parenting.
Relatability (to characters, events, settings)	The show is one of the few sitcoms that is predominantly Muslim.
Escape (from daily life)	The situations that Mobeen finds himself in are humorous and provide an escape from the audience's daily lives.
Entertainment	The 'banter' between Mobeen and his friends/family creates entertainment.

Task 3: Repeat Programming

- PRIMARY: 18–34-year-old females. They are on the ABC1–D on the ABC1 system, and watch the show for entertainment.
- SECONDARY: 24–40-year-olds. They are likely to be a passive audience who watch the show as part of their daily lives.
- TERTIARY: 40–59-year-olds. Original fans of the show who watch for nostalgia and situational comedy.

Finale: *Man Like Mobeen*

Reasons could include:

- The audience is much smaller.
- The humour is coarser and ruder.
- Some of the language would be difficult for non-Muslim audiences to understand.
- There are fewer characters so it is not as relatable.
- The situations are not as relatable to the audience.

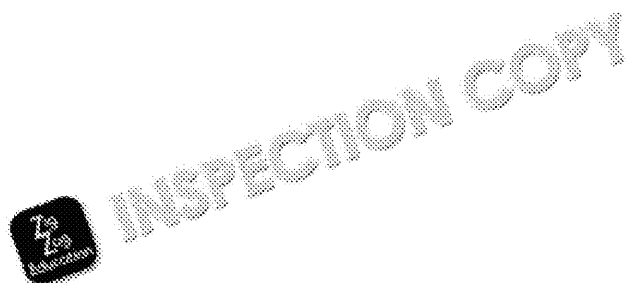
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Extension: Context and Audience

Ideas could include:

- Relationships (between family, friends or romantically)
- Gender roles and equality
- Representation of minority groups
- What is socially acceptable today compared to previously
- The level of disposable income
- Influence of technology and social media



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8. The Test of Time

Starter: Comparing Audiences

Answers could include but are not limited to:

Similarities	Differences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The primary audiences for the initial air dates were roughly 18–30-year-olds. The audience are looking for escape from their daily lives. The humour provides entertainment but also makes the audience feel good. The audience support some of the characters, such as Joey/Phoebe or Mobeen. The situations and characters are stereotypical and the humour for the audience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The audience for <i>Man Like Mobeen</i> is more represented, especially for Black audiences. <i>Man Like Mobeen</i> appeals to a wider audience. The back stories of the characters are more light-hearted. The character interactions are designed to create a sense of community.

Task 1: Why So Popular?

There is no one correct answer for this task as it is designed to generate discussion.

Task 2: Investigating *Man Like Mobeen*

The following reasons are similar between *Man Like Mobeen* and *Friends*:

- Actors have gone on to become big, recognisable stars.
- The show makes the audience feel included, like they are part of the story.
- The discussion about the show can span generations.
- It's easy watching. You can have it on in the background or concentrate on what you're doing.

Reasons why *Man Like Mobeen* was not as popular as *Friends* could include:

- The setting was aimed at a more specific audience.
- It had to be aired after the watershed, which limited the audience.
- There were not as many characters to identify with as others.
- It did not have as many episodes as *Friends*.
- The broadcasting company and associated streaming service were not as well-known as others.

Finale: Settings and Audience

a)

<i>Man Like Mobeen</i>	<i>Friends</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobeen's kitchen Outside the mosque The supermarket Brother Ahmed's street Brother Ahmed's lounge Outside Mobeen's house 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Perk Monica's apartment The restaurant Ross's apartment The kitchen

- b) Students should be credited for whichever setting they can convincingly justify. They should be able to argue more for settings in *Man Like Mobeen* because they are more achievable in the UK compared to Monica's huge, unrealistic apartment.

This task could also be used as a springboard for further discussion.

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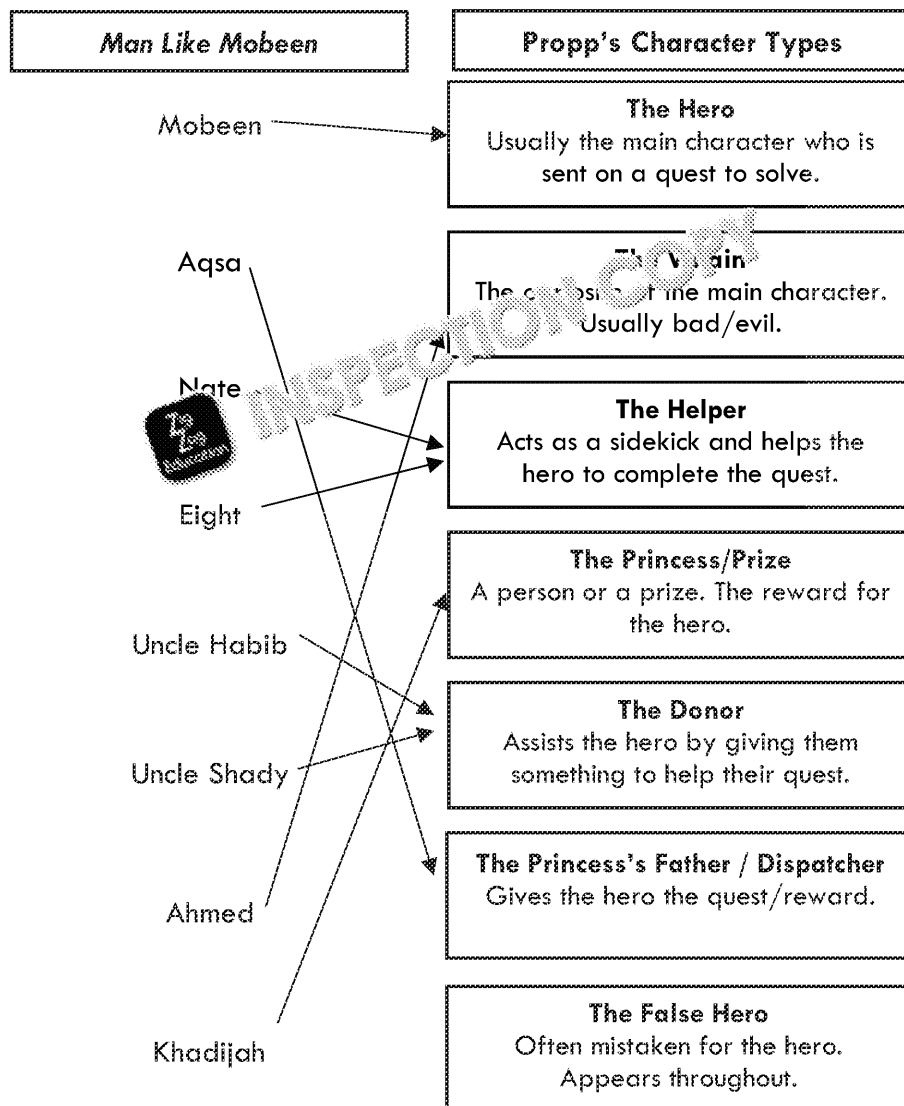
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9. Character Types and Tropes

Starter: Matching Propp's Characters

There is room for discussion with this activity, but the answer could follow this pattern:



Task 1: Character Types

- **Chandler: The Wisecracker**
As a wisecracker, Chandler will usually take a back seat in discussion to watch then has the opportunity to jump into the conversation with one-line jokes.
- **Joey: The Womaniser**
Joey is a stereotypical male. He is very confident of himself and his ability to get opportunity as a chance to start and find a new romantic partner. Less likely to be serious.
- **Ross: The Geek**
Ross is very emotional and negative. He is pessimistic and sees the negative little consequences and uses his negative and sarcastic comments to cover this.
- **Monica: The Know-it-all**
Monica loves to be correct and will assert her ideas over the rest of the friends. She will often take charge in a situation. She cannot handle being incorrect and is often very stubborn.
- **Phoebe: The Flake**
Phoebe is very spiritual and moves from idea to idea very quickly. She often has a happy-go-lucky and this attitude can be influential over the other friends. She is often believing what she is told.

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- **Rachel: The Spoilt Brat**
Rachel hasn't had to support herself at all. She has no social awareness and does simple tasks that the other friends will have been doing for a long time because of them for herself. Shopaholic with no knowledge of the value of money.

Task 2: Characters in *Man like Mobeen*

- **Mobeen**
Adjectives could include: childish, jokey, loyal, kind-hearted
His representation: Mobeen is made up of contrasting representations. On the one hand, he has stereotypical young male behaviour as he is jokey and childish. But he is clearly responsible as he is raising his sister by himself. This makes the audience warm to him.
- **Aqsa**
Adjectives could include: confident, serious, sensible, less stereotypical, argumentative
Her representation: Aqsa is very relatable as she is represented as a stereotypical young woman, but she also subverts feminine stereotypes as she is quite feisty and not afraid of standing up for herself. She is portrayed as being a bit of a rebel and the sensible one within her family, which makes her a sympathetic character.
- **Eight**
Adjectives could include: naïve, childlike, underappreciated, loyal
His representation: Eight is placed in the show for comedic value. He is often the sort of character that the audience laugh at rather than with. He is very loyal to Mobeen, which makes him seem less intelligent compared to the other characters, but he is also a good friend to Mobeen despite the way he is treated.

Task 3: Popularity of Characters

Chandler is likely to be a popular character because his sarcasm creates a lot of humour. As awkward situations arise around him, as he comments on society rather than getting involved, the audience can comment on his way of thinking.

Extension: Representing Settings

- **The inside and outside of Mobeen's house:** The inside of Mobeen's house is warm and welcoming. Inside the house seems warm and welcoming even though we only see the kitchen. The kitchen is bright (as shown by the blue glasses early in the episode) and Mobeen is seen making a smoothie, as it suggests this is something he does often. Unexpectedly, the house also seems comfortable as he relaxes with Nate and Eight on the sofas in the front yard. However, having this kind of furniture outside the front of a house is stereotypically associated with people who come from a less affluent background. Mobeen has his own ideas about how people from this demographic live, but Mobeen's house is clean, tidy and lit with warm lighting to make it seem homely.
- **Friends Central Perk Café:** The coffee shop is open-plan, so it seems welcoming and cosy, representing a relaxed environment. This is a stereotypical location for a sitcom.
- **Friends Monica's/Joey's apartment:** Both locations are comfortable, warm and have personal touches which make them more interesting to watch as it represents the characters. The apartments are also eclectic and a mishmash of different styles, which is interesting to watch.

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10. Representing Real Life

Starter: Real Life

Answers could include but are not limited to:

- *Man Like Mobeen*
 - Raising children
 - Religion and community
 - Marriage
 - Controversial issues such as drugs
- *Friends*
 - Same-sex relationships (Ross's wife)
 - High-income living and lifestyle
 - Becoming independent
 - Moving on to a new relationship
 - Being tricked into relationships
- Both
 - Lack of confidence
 - Family and friendships

Task 1: Modern Life

Answers could include but are not limited to:

- Settings
 - A crowded, boring workplace
 - A small office
 - A local shop
 - A well-known restaurant
- Personalities
 - A nosey neighbour
 - A suspicious store owner
 - An angry drunk
 - A prankster
- Careers
 - Waiter/waitress
 - Cashier
 - Pawnbroker
 - Teacher
 - Emergency services
- Interests/Events
 - Feminism
 - Sport – football/rugby
 - Animals (primarily dogs)
 - Campaigner

Task 2: Character Representations

An example paragraph would be:

More is acceptable in society today than it was during the time that *Friends* was produced. Relationships and family are more fluid. Furthermore, formerly taboo topics such as divorce are now freely discussed and represented in the media. People are more aware of under-represented aspects within society, making them more likely to be a focus within productions.

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Task 3: Representation in *Man Like Mobeen*

Each of these situations could be argued as being both successful and unsuccessful.

- **Mobeen's sister is suspended from school for fighting UNSUCCESSFUL**
 - Although it is realistic that Aqsa would be suspended for fighting, she would walk home without the school having contacted Mobeen beforehand (probably Aqsa's reaction is also not expected given that she chose to fight the bullies).
- **Mobeen tries to talk to Aqsa about boys SUCCESSFUL**
 - There are some parts of the conversation (such as when Mobeen says there are over-exaggerated, but this helps to make the representation successful). Relationships with your sister is going to be awkward, and the conversation is awkward.
- **Mobeen decides that an arranged marriage is best for him and Aqsa UNSUCCESSFUL**
 - Even though it is a part of Mobeen's culture, he has but very little thought about how marriage would be like and sees it as a quick fix for Aqsa. This creates his convincing representation of marriage.

Extension: Critical Personification

Answers could include the following sitcoms:

- *Friends* (1994–2004)
- *Sex and the City* (1998–2004)
- *Will and Grace* (1998–2006 / 2017+)
- *My Family* (2000–2011)
- *Glee* (2009–2015)
- *Modern Family* (2009+)
- *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* (2013+)

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