



GCSE Eduqas Cover Lessons

Component 2A: Sitcoms: *Modern Family and Friends*

Second Edition, August 2022

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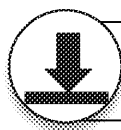
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Teacher's Introduction

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**: *Modern Family* 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 the set product *Modern Family* (Season 8, Episode 2: A Stereotypical Day (2016)) 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.

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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

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Cover Lesson Overview Table

Lesson No.	Learning 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>Modern Family</i> to other sitcoms 3. Suggest reasons for the focus on the series 	<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>Modern Family</i> in order to understand the genre in more detail.</p>	<p>Summarise Compare Sitcom Communist Unique selling point Audience Producers Context Social Cultural Character Settings Air date Distribution Production Cast</p>	Worksheets only
2	<p>Gender, Race and Sexuality</p> <p>By the end of the lesson you will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify examples of social context that are key to the set episode 2. Deconstruct a contextual reference in detail 3. Compare intertextual references 	<p>Students look at social context more closely. They break down examples from the show, make comparisons with other sitcoms and then practise their exam writing based on these.</p>	<p>Contextual Sitcom Genre Social Cultural Political Historical Gender Traditional Producer Audience Feminist</p>	Worksheets only

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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 within 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 the unique staging of the show and how it breaks the fourth wall.</p>	<p>Mise en scène Define Determine Media language Audiovisual Costume Facial expression Lighting Staging Camera shot Montage Director's mode of address</p>	<p>A French dictionary is needed for the first task. The Internet is needed for the plenary, and may also be useful for Task 2 (though this task could be completed through class discussion).</p>
4	<p>UK vs USA</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>Students compare sitcoms produced in the UK to those produced in the USA and consider why there are differences between the two.</p>	<p>Summarise Differentiate Evaluate Pilot Conventions Stereotype Dialect Narrative Genre Production Intertextual</p>	<p>Dictionaries may be needed for the extension task.</p>
	<p>Process and Regulation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine the different stages of production 	<p>The process of making an episode is considered alongside</p>	<p>Determine Revise Industry Regulator Historical Representation Controversial Production</p>	<p>Worksheet only</p>

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Lesson No.	Lesson Title and Learning Objectives	Lesson Outline and Suggestions	Key Terms	Resources
6	Distribution and Cross-platform Marketing 1. Define the watershed. 2. Explain the impact of cross-platform marketing on sitcoms. 3. Examine the effectiveness of methods of viewing sitcoms.	Students look at the watershed by defining what it is considering its impact. As well as this they consider viewing methods for modern sitcoms.	Watershed Cross-platform Marketing Examine distribution Synergy Convergence Audience Why it Analyse Gratifications Examine Audiences Broadening Context Longevity	Worksheet only
7	Hooking an Audience 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	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> .	Gratifications Examine Audiences Broadening Context Longevity	Worksheet only Students will need to cut out and stick resources as part of an activity.
8	The Test of Time 1. Explain the difference in audience between the set and supporting text 2. Determine what makes a show as successful as <i>Friends</i> 3. Investigate the relatability for the audience	This lesson focuses on <i>Friends</i> and how it has managed to engage audiences since its original air date in 1994. This is compared to <i>Modern Family</i> , which has a very niche audience.	Aired Terrestrial Summarise Audiences Relatability Subscription Iconic Setting Identify	Worksheet only Students will need to cut out and stick resources as part of an activity.
9	Character Types and Tropes 1. Recall Propp's character theory 2. Determine character types within the set and supporting text 3. Suggest reasons for the popularity of characters	Students revise Propp's character theory and then consider the representations of characters within sitcoms as a whole.	Sitcom Determine Narrative Representation Character Stereotype	Worksheet only

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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 *Modern Family* to other sitcoms
3. suggest reasons for the focus of the series

Starter: Summarising the Episode

Complete the summary of the set episode of *Modern Family* below by using the text from the episode.

The show centres around _____, members of the same family. In this episode

The _____

_____ comes from college (_____) because she is sick, and the other members of her family take advantage of this. _____ uses Alex as support because he is frightened of being locked in, having been accidentally locked into a closet at one of his open houses. _____ is trying to steal Alex's _____ so that he can copy his assignments, get good grades but not put in any of the work. _____ is tired of being the boss all the time, so lets Alex boss her family around at home so that she doesn't become the bad guy. _____ is the only member of the family trying to get Alex back to college, because she has lost her job but wants to keep this a secret.

The _____

_____ wants to live outside like Mowgli from *The Jungle Book*, _____ wants to become a _____ in order to impress a girl, and _____ is struggling with her television remote but is trying not to destroy it as she has so many others before. _____ is the main focus of the family for this episode as he is trying to make a good impression on the new neighbours across the road after worrying that they will think poorly of him for installing new security cameras on the day they move in (even though this is purely _____!).

The _____

After feeling so proud that _____ is coming out as a trans friend, _____ and _____ hear her call Phil _____ which leads them to question whether they really have accepted her as accepting as they thought.


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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 *Family*. Examples have been given in the table below to get you started:

Similarities	Differences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centres around a group of characters  <p>INSPECTION COPY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The characters are of the same family

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Task 3: The Focus of the Series

The unique selling point (USP) of the series, and the thing that makes it different from anything else aired at the same time, is the fact that all of the characters are related to each other and they all belong to the same family.

Why do you think the producers chose to centre the show around different branches of the family?

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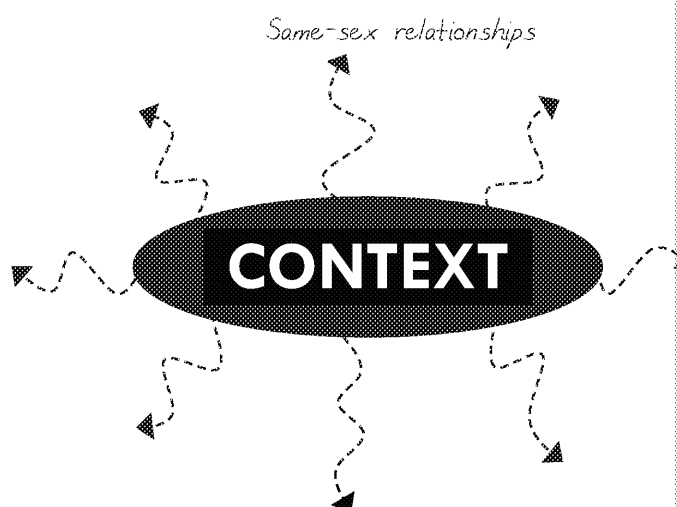
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Finale: Other Contexts

Even though the characters all stem from the same family, they are different in so many ways. Some of these differences could be considered aspects of social or cultural context. Fill in the spaces with examples of context you could be asked about.



Extension: A Detective Investigation

Use the Internet to help you expand on the notes you made today. Create a single page report on the set episode of *Modern Family*.

Aim to include:

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

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2. Gender, Race and Sexual

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

1. identify examples of social context that are key to the set episode
2. deconstruct a contextual reference in detail
3. compare contextual references

Background:

Within your exam, you will need to refer to context in order to show a well-rounded understanding of *Modern Family* episode and the sitcom genre as a whole. There are four different ways to refer to:

- Social: This is broad and relates to the balance of power between genders, people's beliefs, attitudes and sexuality, as well as much more.
- Cultural: Values and morals of different communities will be represented in specific references.
- Historical: Big historical events are likely to feature in media at the time, or they have happened.
- Political: The party in power, as well as how leaders are perceived, will determine what media is, and what is included within them.

Starter: Types of Family

Although there are many ways to refer to the different make-up of families, the focus is on *Modern Family*. Can you match the correct term to the definition and example?

Nuclear

In this family, the adults both share the same gender (i.e. there are two fathers or two mothers)

Blended

This kind of family is when at least one of the adults already has children. It is also known as a stepfamily.

Same-sex

This is a traditional family, made up of a mother, a father and children.

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Task 1: Making *Modern Family* Modern

It could be argued that the producers were clever in naming the show *Modern Family* to represent a lifestyle that audiences were familiar with and could relate to. However, producers also need to keep the show up to date in order for the name to make sense.

Take a look at the examples from the show below. Can you explain how these references have been done for you to get you started.



Modern Family (Season 8, Episode 2) © 20th Century Fox, 2009–2020

Claire is running the family business. Feminist audiences are used to seeing women in business. Traditionally the family line is passed through the male line. In a patriarchal society where men's work are shown and treated as more important than women's.



Modern Family (Season 8, Episode 2) © 20th Century Fox, 2009–2020

Cam and Mitchell have a trans friend.

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Modern Family (Season 8, Episode 2) © 20th Century Fox, 2009–2020

Jay is concerned about his reputation. He has received by the new neighbors.

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Task 2: Comparing Contexts

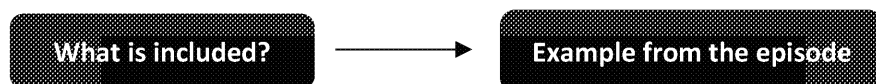
Think back to the contexts within *Modern Family* that you have learnt so far.

- a) Use the table below to create a comparison to another sitcom. An example has started, but you can also work with a partner or use the Internet if you have access.

Context in <i>Modern Family</i>	Comparison
There are different family set-ups in the show.	Ross has multiple wives and forms a blended family in the final season.

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

Thinking about the following structure may help:



For example:

There are different family set-ups within *Modern Family*. For example, Jay and Gloria were married before and have children from their previous relationship. Many audiences may relate to this as it is a common family set-up. Family set-ups are often included in sitcoms such as *Friends* as Ross has multiple wives and forms a blended family with Rachel in the final season.

What is included?	Example from the episode

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Finale: Alternative Social Context

What other aspects of modern society could also be included in *Modern Family*? Be prepared to share your answer with the rest of the class!

New modern device:

Justification:

Extension: The Supporting Text

Use the bullet points below to record examples of social context within the supporting text. Remember, your examples come from the pilot episode only!

Remember, this is unlikely to be as modern as *Modern Family*.

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Homework: Historical and Political Contexts

This lesson has focused on social context, but remember that you can also comment on historical and political context.

Identify two to four examples of historical and political contexts that may apply to *Modern Family*.

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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

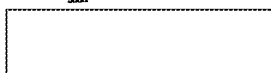
Background:

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 see some of the key information that you already have 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 label the correct parts of the image.



Modern Family (Season 8, Episode 2) © 20th Century Fox, 2009–2020

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Task 2: Breaking the Fourth Wall

One way that the show sets itself apart from others is that it 'breaks the fourth w

- a) Can you find a definition for this?

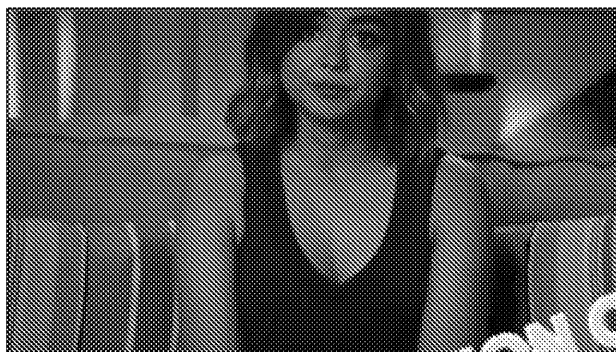
[illegible]

- b) What are the advantages and disadvantages of using this?

Advantages	
	

Task 3: Mockumentaries

The show is filmed as a mockumentary. As suggested, this term is a combination



As you can see from the screenshot, the characters often have moments where they sit on the sofa, speaking directly to the camera. This is a form of address, which makes it feel like they are talking to the audience themselves.

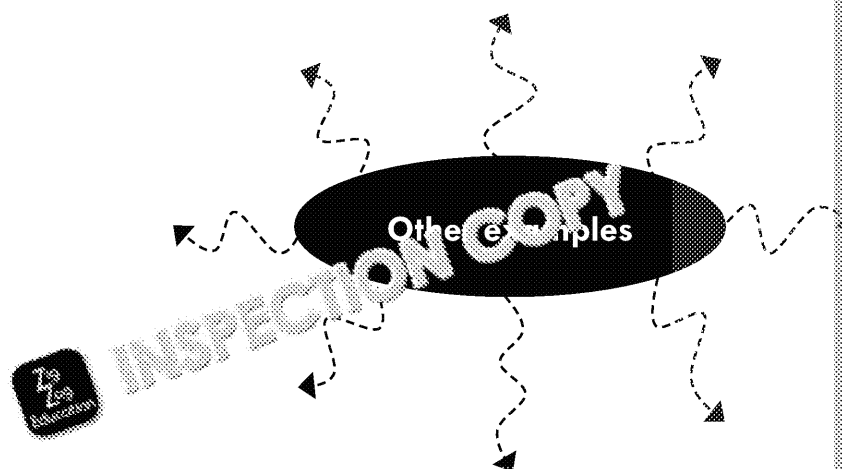
In this episode, the Dunphy mother meets with the audience to tell the story of the Dunphy family who we

Who is the character we never hear from?

If they had talked to the camera, what would they have revealed?

Finale: Other Examples

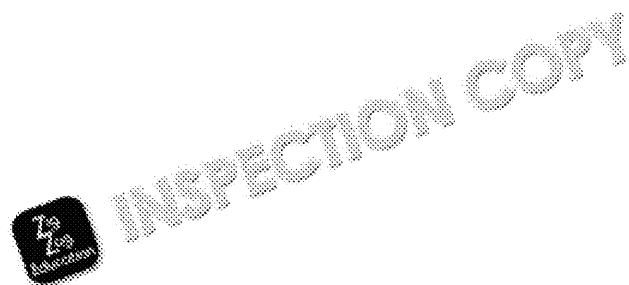
Using the Internet, see if you can identify any other sitcoms, shows or films that break the fourth wall.



Extension: Mocking *Friends*

The mockumentary style of sitcom is a relatively modern way of presenting the story. Before it was widely used and aired, there were very few shows in this style.

How would you adapt the pilot episode of *Friends* to fit the mockumentary style?



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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:

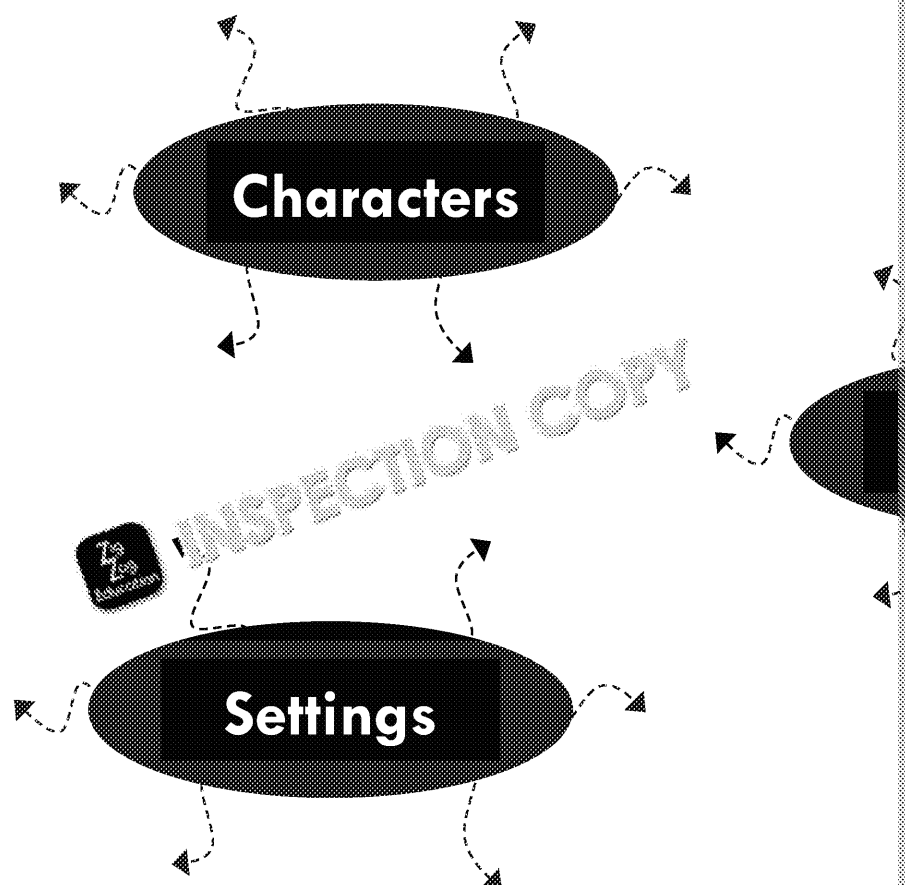
Some of the more famous and widely known sitcoms are from the USA. These shows often dominated UK television, making it hard for home audiences to relate to. However, there are multiple examples where shows from the UK have inspired American ones. A good example of this is *The Big Bang Theory*.

There are clear differences between the media language used in US and UK sitcoms. Investigating these differences will get 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 continues to attract large audiences even today due to reruns on popular channels such as E4 and Comedy Central.

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



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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*.

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

- a) Working either in pairs or as a class, create a list of British sitcoms that you like.

- b) Choose one of the sitcoms that you have listed above. Write a short comparison between *Modern Family* or *Friends*. You could use the box on the right to help you write.

Finale: Personal Preferences

Do you prefer British or American comedy? Explain your reasoning.

I prefer

Because

.....

.....

.....

Extension: Subjectivity

Define the term **subjectivity** and explain how subjectivity might explain the differences between British and American sitcoms.

Homework: *My Family*

A British sitcom that could be compared to both *Modern Family* and *Friends* is *My Family*. Use the Internet to research the show. Create two PowerPoint slides with the following information:

- Slide 1: *My Family*
 - Details of the characters
 - Some plot points
 - Production details (e.g. how long it ran for, production and distribution)
- Slide 2: How it compares to *Modern Family* and *Friends*
 - It may be useful to split the slide in two and bullet-point the comparison

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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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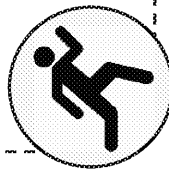


Task 1: The Production Process

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.

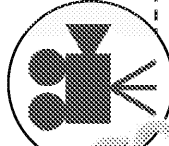


The network will give the show a final check before it is released, to ensure that it fits with the advertising and sponsorship it may have as well as other shows either side of it.

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

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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 with the stage it belongs in:

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

Task 3: Making Comedy 'Safe'

Some audiences – and comedians – argue that in today's society it is hard to make comedy that is not too safe. People are quick to criticise and cancel. This could explain why there is little in the media that audiences take offence at.

- a) Choose an example from a sitcom's pilot episode that audiences could consider 'too safe'. Write down an example and why it may have been included.

.....

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.....

- b) Do you think that *Modern Family* is too safe for audiences? Include an example and your response.

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.....

Finale: Exit Ticket

Complete the card to exit the lesson. Note down one thing that you have learnt today.

Name:

Today I have learnt:

.....

.....

Extension: Pilot Season

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

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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. In the UK, shows with more explicit content can be aired after a particular time (10pm in the UK).

However, there are other influences on what can be shown. For example, subscription cable television can 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>Modern Family</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

Each of the distribution methods below is used for *Modern Family* and *Friends* as well as *Friends with Benefits*. 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 *Modern Family* nor *Friends* has a website. Why?

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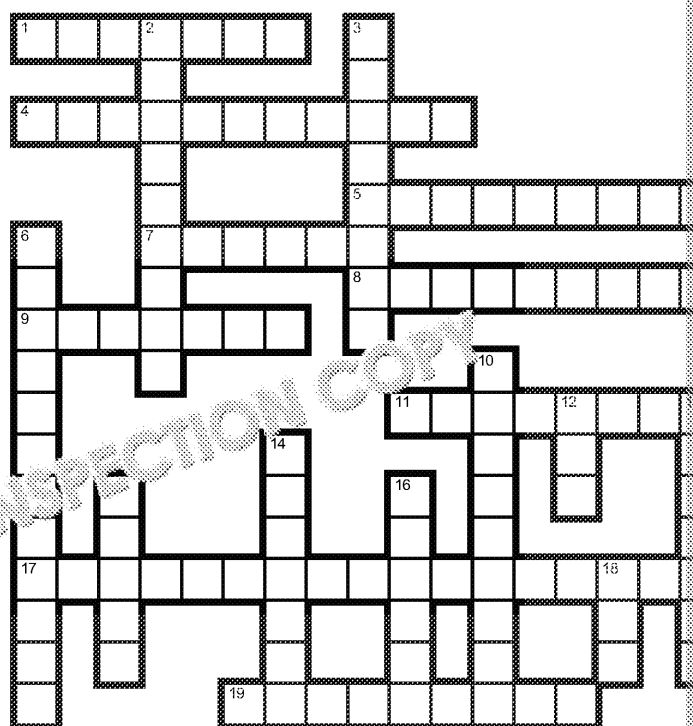
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Finale: Crossword



Across

- 1 A broadcasting channel such as ABC is considered a _____ (7)
- 4 When a show creates negative criticism, it creates _____ (11)
- 5 This term means using multiple platforms to market a product (11)
- 7 The organisation that funds a television show is known as a _____ (6)
- 8 The main phase of making a television series or film (10)
- 9 The technical term for two or more companies working together (7)
- 11 The technical name for watching a film or television show online. (9)
- 17 The name given to the list of programmes and adverts a particular channel has
- 19 Ofcom is the _____ for television and radio in the UK (9)

Down

- 2 10pm in American television scheduling is known as the _____ (9)
- 3 Owning merchandise that isn't online means that the audience own a _____
- 6 Putting a show out on DVD or across channels is known as _____ (12)
- 10 When a television channel chooses to put a show on air they _____
- 12 The channel that distributes Modern Family (3) (3)
- 13 A major streaming service that can be accessed online through apps (7)
- 14 The place online the audience can go to find more information about the show
- 15 The opening episode of a television show
- 16 When an audience refuse to watch a programme and campaign against it, this is
- 18 A hard copy of a television programme or film would be on a _____ (3)

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 *Modern Family*. Explain your choice.

Homework

Design a website for *Modern Family*. Label your illustration, explaining the choices you made.

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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 1, 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

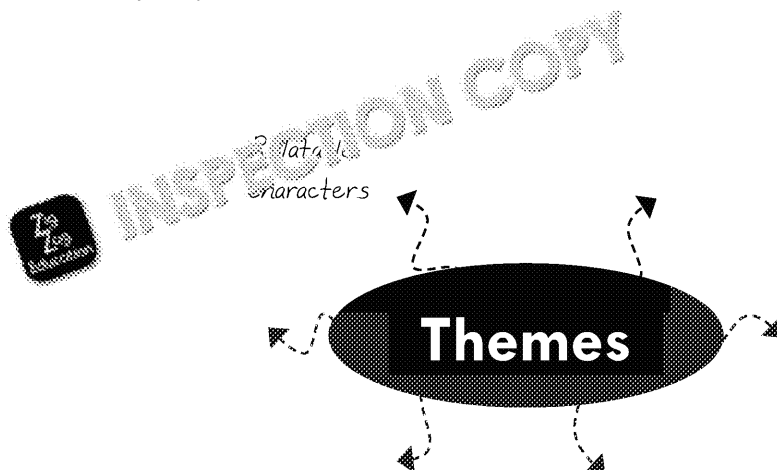
Starter: Anagrams

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 *Modern Family* diagram reasons why viewers might choose to watch sitcoms and their repeated themes. Which sitcom each of your points comes from.



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Task 2: Finding Examples

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

Gratification	Example
Information	Audiences could use the conversation between Jay,曹 advice on how to deal with situations such as their characters are gay or trans - which may be something they will
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 first aired. This 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 Comedy Central and streamed on Netflix. Who do you think the audience is for the repeat broadcasts? Cut out the audience boxes and stick them in the correct box.

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

24–40-year-olds. They are likely to be a passive audience who watch the show to escape their daily lives.

35–50-year-olds. Original fans of the show who watch for nostalgia and to relate to the characters and situations.


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Finale: Longevity

Both *Modern Family* and *Friends* spanned multiple series over several years. Give shows lasted this long.

Extension: Context and Influence

Think about ns as a whole and see whether you can answer the following questions. Use *Friends* as evidence 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

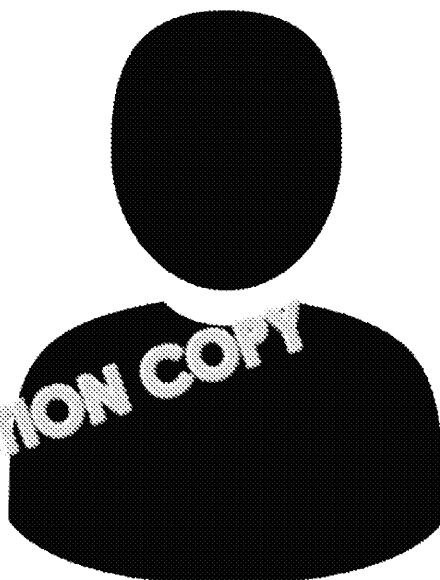
Background:

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.

Even though it was created over 20 years later, *Modern Family* could be considered a modern *Friends* as it spanned multiple seasons and also had a large cast.

Starter: Audience Profile

Annotate the outline below with words and phrases that describe the target audience for *Friends*. You could colour-code which words/phrases apply to *Modern Family* and you may find the audiences are very similar!



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Task 1: Why So Popular?

Look at the reasons listed below for the continuing popularity of *Friends*. Cut out 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
fine

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

Actors have
rec

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

The show makes the
they are

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

The show had guest
Bruce Willis

The discussion about the show can span generations.

It's easy watching
background or con

Task 2: Investigating *Modern Family*

Although *Modern Family* has many similarities with *Friends*, it could be argued that it is not as *Friends*.

Thinking of this, to begin with, look back over the reasons given in Task 1. Highlight *Modern Family*.

Following this, summarise below the reasons you believe that *Modern Family* has as *Friends*.

[illegible]

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Finale: Settings and Audience

Look at the pictures of the two settings below. One is the Dunphy family's lounge, the other is Monica's apartment in *Friends*. Explain why the audience would identify



Modern Family (set), © Modern Family Twitter (@ModernFam), 02/04/2020



Set of Monica Geller's apartment in *Friends*, Gary Null | NBCU Photo Bank via Getty Images

Extension: Increasing the Audience

Create three methods that you could use to increase popularity of *Modern Family* and *Friends* to explain your ideas.

1.
.....
.....
2.
.....
.....
3.
.....
.....



Homework: A New Character

One of the reasons that *Modern Family* and *Friends* may have stood the test of time is that they are relatable to a large audience.

Create a Facebook profile for a new character that you could introduce to a British sitcom. Identify the show, and justify the choices that you have made.

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.

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

Starter: Matching Propp's Characters

Look at the characters from *Friends*. Draw lines to match each character to a character type.

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/Prize

A person or a prize. The reward for the hero.

The Donor

Assists the hero by giving them something that helps them on 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, identify 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

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Task 2: Characters in *Modern Family*

The characters within *Friends* are designed to represent the types of people that either within their own friendship groups or within their wider social circle. How do you map the same character types to the characters from *Modern Family*.

Choose a character from each of the families. For each character, list adjectives to summarise what that representation would do for the audience. One has been done for you.

DUNPHY: Alex

- Uptight
- Intelligent
- Strong-willed
- Reliable

Her reputation for being uptight creates a lot of humour through the contrast that she knows far more than the other characters. She is also someone that younger female audiences can aspire to be like. Many older female viewers may recognise her traits in themselves or their daughters.

PRITCHETT

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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 characters from *Modern Family* from your favourite to your least favourite, what would your order be? Record the information below.



Order:

Justify your order:

Create a class poll. Does your order match with the class? Explain why you think you are the most popular as their favourite.

Finale: You as a Character

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

Text:

Your character type:

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Extension: Representing Storylines

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

Modern Family – Jay trying to make a good impression on his neighbour: Jay represents worry about what their actions might suggest to people from other cultures, even jokes that he is an 'old white man', which is a stereotype that the show is trying to also shows that he is trying too hard.

Modern Family – Cam and Mitchell's concern about Lily calling Tom a weirdo: ...

.....

.....

.....

Friends – Rachel being cut off from her father's finances:

.....

.....

.....

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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

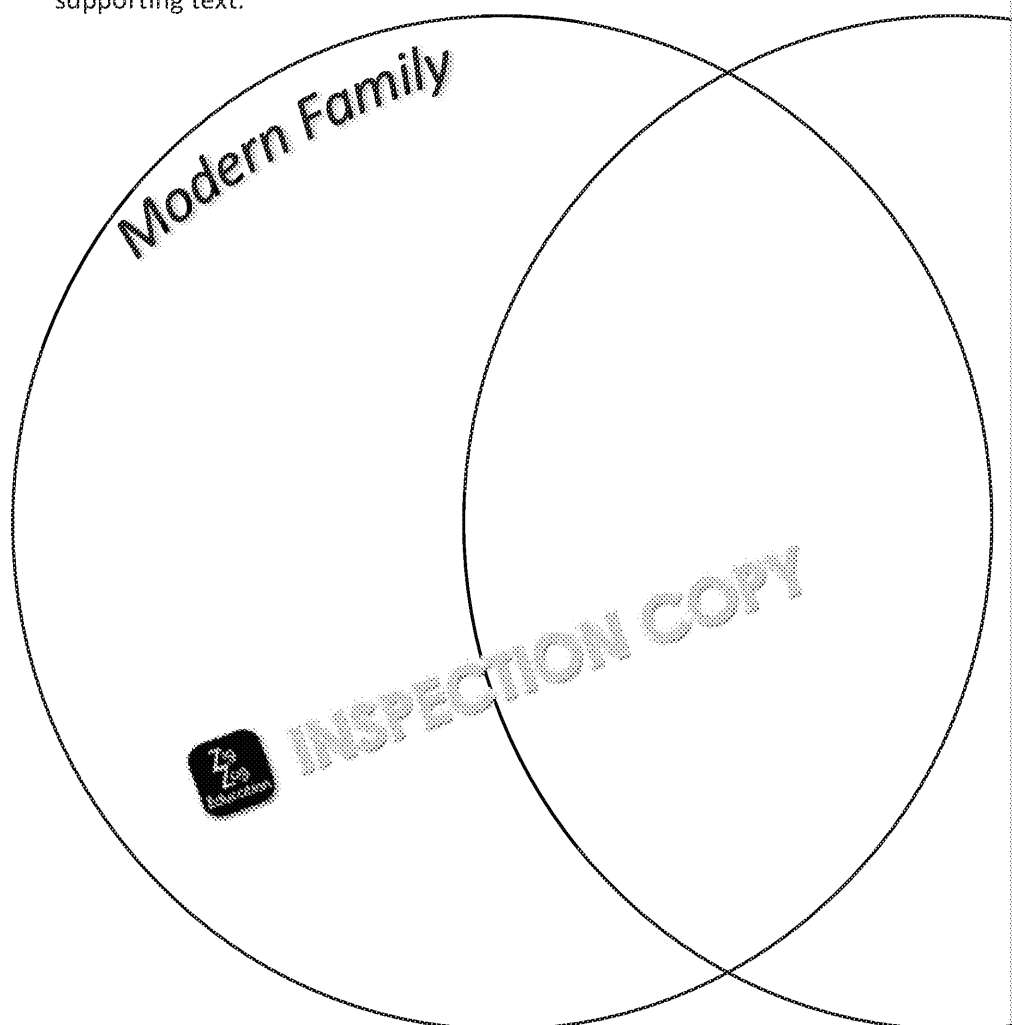
Background:

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 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 sitcoms 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 *Modern Family* was aired in 2016, whereas the original *Family Ties* 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 *Modern Family*

Each of the different situations below has been taken from the set episode of *Modern Family* (see episode 2). For each situation, evaluate whether or not it is a successful representation (see lesson 2 for the definition of a successful representation). Remember to justify your ideas.

Phil is terrified of being locked inside	Successful
Justification:	

Gloria has destroyed multiple television remotes	Successful
Justification:	

Manny wants to become a communist	Successful
Justification:	

Finale: Applying your knowledge

On the exit ticket below, explain how you can use the knowledge you have gained (see lesson 2 for the definition of a successful representation 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 and make sure you include it on your timeline.

Homework: Alternative Representations

Choose a sitcom other than *Modern Family* or *Friends* and investigate the representation of LGBTQ+ in the show. 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

The show centres around **three** branches of the same family. In this episode:

The Dunphys

Alex is home from college (**university**) because she is sick, and the other members of **Phil** uses Alex as support because he is frightened of being locked in, having been at one of his open houses. **Luke** is trying to steal Alex's **laptop** so that he can copy her as not put in any of the work. **Claire** is tired of being the boss all the time, so lets Alex be that she doesn't have to be the bad guy. **Haley** is the only member of the family trying because she has lost her job but wants to keep it a secret.

The Pritchetts

Joe wants to live outside. He is from *The Jungle Book*, **Manny** is trying to become impress a girl. **Glenn** is struggling with the television remote but is trying not to do others before. **Joe** is the main focus of the family for this episode as he trying to make neighbours across the road after worrying that they will think poorly of him for installing day they move in (even though this is purely a **coincidence**!).

The Tucker-Pritchetts

After feeling so proud that **Lily** is accepting of her trans friend, **Cam** and **Mitchell** hear them to question whether they really have raised her to be as accepting as they thought.

Task 1: Sitcoms

Answers can include but are not limited to:

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

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 clothing, situations and characters are often exaggerated • The protagonists portray a variety of character types • Play on words and suggestive language are often included 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The characters are part of the story • Some sitcoms have an overarching stand-alone story • The ages are different • The target audience is different

Task 3: The Focus of the Series

Example paragraph:

The producers may have chosen to focus on family because everyone has a family. This may appeal to a huge audience and therefore make the show more popular. However, each person has different beliefs and dynamics which could help to draw in more specific groups to the show.

Other reasons could include but are not limited to:

- Gives a relaxed atmosphere
- Makes the humour universal
- There is less backstory for the audience to understand or figure out

Finale: Other Contexts

Answers could include but are not limited to:

- Same-sex relationships
- Race
- Adoption
- Age differences
- Tolerance

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2. Gender, Race and Sexuality

Starter: Types of Family

- Nuclear: This is a traditional family, made up of a mother, a father and children.
- Blended: This kind of family is when at least one of the adults already has children from a previous relationship. For example, the Pritchetts.
- Same-sex: In this family, the adults both share the same gender (i.e. there are two mothers or two fathers). For example, the Tucker-Pritchetts.

Task 1: Making *Modern Family* Modern

Claire is running the family business: Claire would appeal to feminist audiences as she is shown running the family business. Traditionally this would be passed down through the male line. This shows a society where women's talents and hard work are shown and treated as equally as men's.

Cam and Mitchell have an adopted daughter, who also has a trans friend: Modern inclusivity and tolerance in adoption is a more open, discussed method of creating a family. There are a lot of taboos around adopting a child with a different culture from your own. It is also far more normalised for people within modern society to respect the gender a person chooses to use and the genders they identify as.

Jay is concerned about how his actions are being received by the new neighbours: This shows that modern society is increasingly aware of how actions are received. People are also more considerate about how their actions are received by others, rather than simply what the intentions of the actions were.

Task 2: Comparing Contexts

Answers could include but are not limited to:

Context in <i>Modern Family</i>	Comparison with other sitcoms
There are different family set-ups in the show.	Ross has multiple divorces the blended family with Rachel in <i>The Big Bang Theory</i> .
Women are shown as more powerful and intelligent.	Amy and Bernadette in <i>The Big Bang Theory</i> are shown as more powerful and intelligent than the stereotype ('ditz') of women in sitcoms.
Men (Phil) are shown as being more sensitive.	Barney in <i>How I Met Your Mother</i> is shown as a more sensitive man than Phil. He is more concerned with his feelings.
Jay is afraid of offending his neighbours.	JD in <i>Scrubs</i> often turns to his neighbours for advice on what is acceptable.

Extension: The Supporting Text

Answers could include but are not limited to:

- Joey is a womaniser
- Rachel's wealth has made her out of touch with working life
- Paul the Wine Guy uses his charm to seduce Monica
- Ross's relationship with his father is strained
- Phoebe is more spiritual

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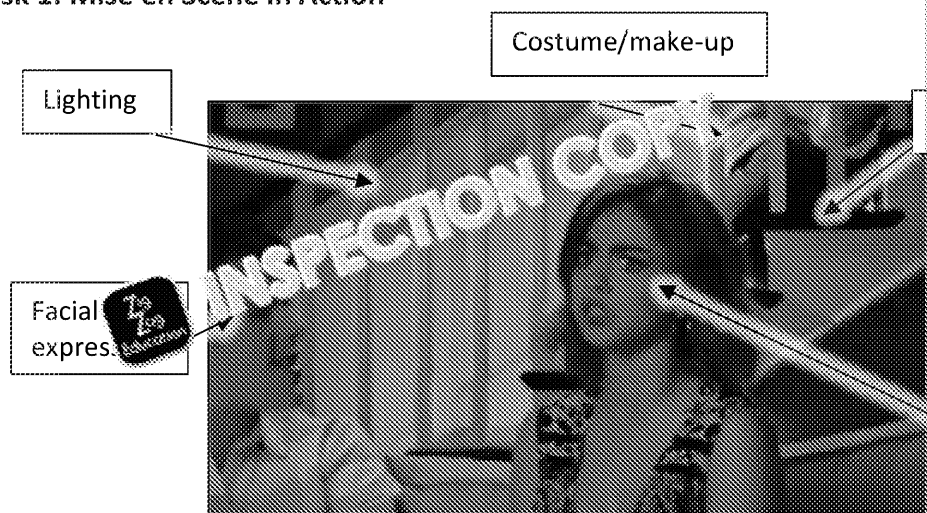


3. Setting the Scene

Starter: Mise en Scène

- Setting
- In
- Staging

Task 1: Mise en Scène in Action



Modern Family (Season 8, Episode 2) © 20th Century Fox, 2009–2020

Task 2: Breaking the Fourth Wall

- a) Where the characters break away from the action/story and talk directly to the audience.
- b) Answers can include but are not limited to:

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes the audience feel more connected to the show. • Puts the audience in a more privileged position – they know the thoughts and feelings of some characters that others do not. • Provides a different experience from other sitcoms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pauses the flow of the story. • Can make the audience feel uncomfortable. • Some audience members may find it distracting.

Task 3: Mockumentaries

We never hear from Alex.

She could have revealed:

- How she was feeling
- What she was worried about missing out on
- How she felt about her family
- Whether she had suggestions about what the family were doing
- When she first found out that Haley had been fired
- How she thought her family would treat her

Finale: Other Examples

Answers could include but are not limited to:

- *How I Met Your Mother*
- *The Office*
- *Glee* (some episodes)
- *Deadpool*
- *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*

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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 backstory

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 at the altar. She has a high opinion of herself and Ross, and the beginning of their relationship is revealed to come from a one-night stand whose wife has divorced him after revealing that she is a lesbian. This provides humour as the audience are often laughing at him. Finally, Monica's one-night stand provides humour as Monica realises he has tricked her.

Task 2: Sitcom Conventions

UK Sitcom Conventions	American Sitcom Conventions
Short series (usually 6–10 episodes)	National stereotypes
Regional language and dialects are often mocked	High-budget productions
National stereotypes are played upon	Sitcoms cover a wide range of topics as far as 10
The narratives are often believable	'Stock' characters
Often include stand-up comedians in 'cameo' roles	Sets are often built to look like a real location rather than being on location
Locations are vague rather than specific	'Stock' characters
Low-budget productions	Well-known actors in sitcoms
The shows maintain longevity, often going beyond five series	Costumes are often used for comedic effect
'Stock' characters are often used	Intertextual references
Location-based filming	Laugh tracks are often included to mimic an audience
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	

Task 3: Comparing Sitcoms

Examples of UK sitcoms include:

- *The Inbetweeners*
- *Friday Night Dinner*
- *Man Like Mobeen*
- *Outnumbered*
- *Misfits*
- *The Office*

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 lifestyle in the USA are different. For example, there is a larger emphasis on getting together for 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: Making Comedy 'Safe'

- a) Examples could include:
- Stereotyping lesbians
 - Stereotyping Rachel as 'ditzzy' or 'dumb'
 - Emphasising wealth and working for your success
 - Sexualising women
 - Phoebe being overly spiritual

These may have been included to:

- Satirise (make fun of) people who legitimise these stereotypes
- Normalise 'taboo' issues in society
- Represent alternative groups or beliefs in society

- b) Arguments in agreement:
- There is such a broad range of representations, is it really realistic?
 - The jokes and humour are predictable
 - There is little to challenge the audience

Arguments disagreeing:

- There are elements of satire – such as Jay worrying about how he will be perceived
- There are still stereotypes within the show (such as Cam and Mitchell)
- Alternative representations are still included in the show

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6. Distribution and Cross-platforming

Starter: Investigating the Watershed

Pre-watershed:

- *Friends*
- *BBC News*
- *Newsround*
- *EastEnders*
- *Modern Family*
- *Homes under the Hammer*

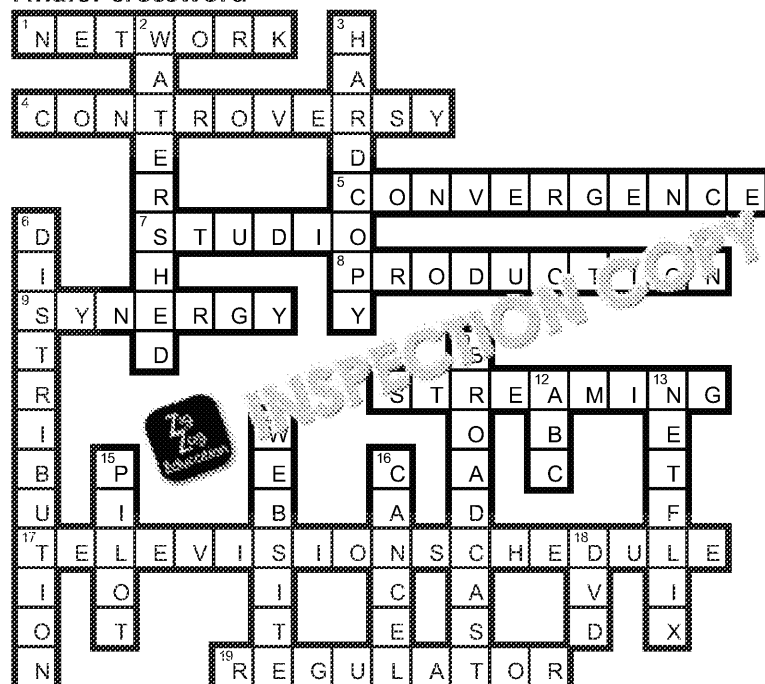
Post-watershed:

- *Game of Thrones*
- *24 Hours in A&E*

Task 2: How to View

On TV (either original air or repeats)	Hard Copy (DVDs)
Advantages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can help a routine or a character's psychology • Create a routine for the demographic • Provides nostalgia (if a repeat episode) Disadvantages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	Advantages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

Finale: Crossword



Task 3: Convergence

Answers could be:

- The show is available on multiple platforms.
- The content is available on multiple platforms.
- Websites can view the content.
- Websites remain relevant.
- The show is making a comeback.

Extension: Sitcoms

Reasons why *Friends* could be successful:

- The interplay between the characters in *Friends*.
- It alienates the audience from Joey's character.
- The story is told from the perspective of the focus character.

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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:

- Relatable characters.
- Recognisable locations.
- The recognisable 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 lives.
- 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: Find Examples

Answers may include but are not limited to:

Gratification	Example
Information	Audiences could use the conversation between Jay, Cam and Gloria on how to deal with situations such as their child coming out as gay or trans - which may be something they will experience.
Talking point	Jay's predicament on how he is coming across to his neighbors and on whether he should worry or whether he is trying too hard.
Relatability (to characters, events, settings)	The different family set-ups within the show appeal to a broad audience.
Escape (from daily life)	Audiences from the UK would view this as escapism, but also as a reflection of the family on the screen and not their own.
Entertainment	Gloria's issue with the TV remote, or the way that the Dunphys deal with their problems.

Task 3: Repeat Programming

- PRIMARY: 18–34-year-old females. They are C1–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: 35–50-year-olds. Original fans of the show who watch for nostalgia and situations.

Finale: Longevity

Reasons could include:

- The audiences are broad and large.
- The humour is less offensive and more relatable to audiences.
- There are many characters making the show relatable.
- The wider settings within the show are relatable and recognisable.

Extension: Text 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: Audience Profile

Answers could include but are not limited to:

- Age 20–40
- Wealthy
- Women
- Mothers
- Families

Task 1: Why So Popular?

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

Task 2: Investigating *The IT Crowd*

The following reasons are similar between *Modern Family* and *Friends*

- 'Friends' (Family) as a theme meaning that all audiences can relate to
- There are many characters that they appeal to different audiences.
- The situations are relatable to day-to-day life and are not out of the ordinary
- The humour is not specific to a particular time or audience
- The show makes the audience feel included, like they are part of the story.
- It's easy watching. You can have it on in the background or concentrate on what is going on.

Reasons why *Modern Family* was not as popular as *Friends* could include:

- The families seem more affluent and this could alienate the audience.
- Younger audiences would struggle to identify with the family aspect.
- Some characters and situations were more exaggerated and stereotyped than in *Friends*.
- The humour is safer and more predictable.

Finale: Settings and Audience

Answers could include:

- Welcoming colours
- Comfy furniture
- Personalised items / knick-knacks
- Recognisable furnishings

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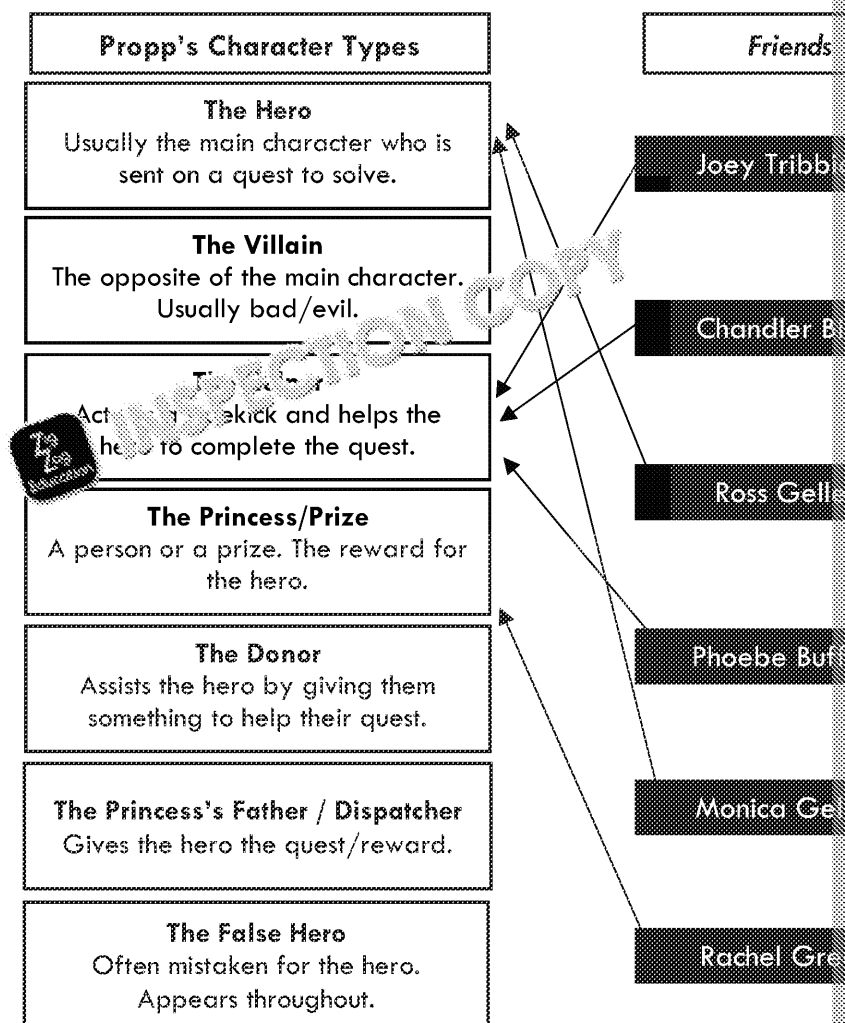
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9. Character Types and Tropes

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 to
- **Joey: The Womaniser**
Joey is a stereotypical male. He is very confident of himself and his ability to opportunity as a chance to flirt and find a new romantic partner. Less likely to
- **Ross: The Cynic**
Ross is overly emotional and negative. He is pessimistic and sees the negative little confidence and uses negative and sarcastic comments to cover this
- **Monica: The Know-It-All**
Monica likes to be correct and will assert her ideas over the rest of the friends will often take charge in a situation. She cannot handle being incorrect and
- **Phoebe: The Flake**
Phoebe is very spiritual and moves from idea to idea very quickly. She often happy-go-lucky and this attitude can be influential over the other friends. She often believing what she is told.
- **Rachel: The Spoilt Brat**
Rachel hasn't had to support herself at all. She has no social awareness and simple tasks that the other friends will have been doing for a long time because them for herself. Shopaholic with no knowledge of the value of money.

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Task 2: Characters in *Modern Family*

Students should be credited for any description that they can justify with examples.

Task 3: Popularity of Characters

Chandler is likely to be a popular character because his sarcasm creates a lot of funny awkward situations arise around him, as he comments on society rather than getting away with it that the audience comment.

Extension: Representing Storylines

Modern Family – Jay trying to make a good impression on his neighbour: Jay represents worry about what their actions might suggest to people from other cultures, even jokes that he is an 'old white man', which is a stereotype. In the show is trying to also shows that he is trying too hard.

Modern Family – Cam and Mitchell's concern about Lily calling Tom a weirdo: Although considered stereotypes, given the mural that they have painted on Lily here is very. In the way they have educated Lily shows that she is considering others who are different from her. She is also shown to have high emotional intelligence how painting over the mural may affect her fathers.

Friends – Rachel being cut off from her father's finances: This is a very stereotypical satirised. It could be making fun of certain types of audiences within America, such as less relatable in a modern time and to a modern audience who are likely to be aware.

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10. Representing Real Life

Starter: Real Life

Answers could include but are not limited to:

- *Modern Family*
 - Worrying about how you are perceived
 - Hiding secrets from your family
 - Taking the easy way out
- *Friends*
 - Working together as a team
 - Colleagues as friends
 - Becoming independent
 - Moving on to a new relationship
 - Being tricked in relationships
- Both
 - Same-sex relationships
 - High earning and lifestyle
 - Being ignorant of others

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: Changing Representations

An example paragraph would be:

More is accepted in society today than it was during the time that *Friends* was popular. Relationships are more fluid. Furthermore, traditional stereotypes are no longer as prevalent in society; a greater emphasis is placed on women's equality in all aspects of society. Life is fast-paced. People work longer hours to make as much or just over what was made in the past. The pace of life has increased.

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Task 3: *The Modern Family* Representation

- Phil is terrified of being locked inside **UNSUCCESSFUL**
 - It's natural for people to experience claustrophobia and fear anxiety at being trapped in traumatic events. However, Phil was only missing for 18 hours, and, even then, he would have realised he wasn't there and rescued him.
- Gloria has destroyed multiple TV remotes **UNSUCCESSFUL**
 - This is a complete exaggeration of a feisty Colombian woman. Yes, people sometimes throw a remote doesn't work, but this humour is overly emphasised and exaggerated.
- Manny wants to be a communist **SUCCESSFUL**
 - Many people choose to do things in order to please a person that they love. It is unlikely that communism is something they would dabble with, but it is common when trying to impress someone.

Extension: Critical Representation

Answers could include the following sitcoms:

- *Friends* (1994–2006)
- *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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