

GCSE Eduqas Topic Tests

Component 2A: Sitcoms: *Man Like Mobeen*

Second Edition, May 2023

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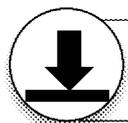
Teacher's Introduction

This resource is for use with GCSE Eduqas (C680QS) Media Studies Component 2A Sitcoms and relates specifically to the set products for **first assessment from 2024**:

- *Man Like Mobeen* Series 2, Episode 2
- *Friends* Series 1, Episode 1

Remember!

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



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

The tests can be used for monitoring the progress of students throughout the course and will help to provide regular informed feedback on progress and learning for the teacher and students, and for reporting to parents/carers.

The tests can be used as end-of-topic texts, revision quizzes, exam preparation or homework.

The tests are engaging and help consolidate learning, giving students the opportunity to practise applying their knowledge. A range of question styles has been used to expose students to different question types and to give variety in the activities, including practice questions in an exam-style format.

Each topic test uses a range of question styles:

- Each topic test starts with factual multiple-choice, tick-box and **short-answer questions**, testing **factual knowledge** and **key vocabulary**. This ensures that core fundamental ideas for each topic are understood by the student. These questions allow weaker students and students who don't enjoy extended writing tasks to test and show their knowledge.
- Questions then increase in difficulty including **medium-length knowledge, explanation and analysis** questions. These are not in exam style, and the purpose of these is to test different elements, knowledge and skills from the specification in a variety of styles.
- At the end of each topic test there are **exam-style questions**, requiring longer answers. This helps to prepare students for what they might meet in the exam, and to test exam skills.

Mark allocations and answers are provided, which are useful for peer- and self-assessment as well as providing you, as the teacher, an opportunity to assess students' strengths and weaknesses in order to inform the teaching and learning process.

Specification overview table

This table can be used to identify which areas you are teaching and select the appropriate topic test to suit your needs.

Tests are all worth 45 marks in total and should take approximately 45 minutes to complete. However, some tests may take slightly longer, depending on the content covered by the test.

Topic test	Topic test title	Set Products		Total marks
1	Sitcoms – Genre	<i>Man Like Mobeen</i>	<i>Friends</i>	45
2	Sitcoms – Media Language	<i>Man Like Mobeen</i>	<i>Friends</i>	45
3	Sitcoms – Representation	<i>Man Like Mobeen</i>	<i>Friends</i>	45
4	Sitcoms – Industries	<i>Man Like Mobeen</i>	<i>Friends</i>	45
5	Sitcoms – Audiences	<i>Man Like Mobeen</i>	<i>Friends</i>	45
6	Sitcoms – Contexts	<i>Man Like Mobeen</i>	<i>Friends</i>	45

Second Edition, May 2023

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

Student Progress Grid

Students should complete the relevant sections of this grid before and after every progress and identify any areas for further study.

Test number	Topic	Contexts	Before completing the test			After completing the test			Score out of 45
			Not very confident	Average confident	Very confident	Not very confident	Average confident	Very confident	
1	Sitcoms – Genre	<i>Man Like Mobeen</i> <i>Friends</i>							
2	Sitcoms – Media Language	<i>Man Like Mobeen</i> <i>Friends</i>							
3	Sitcoms – Representation	<i>Man Like Mobeen</i> <i>Friends</i>							
4	Sitcoms – Industries	<i>Man Like Mobeen</i> <i>Friends</i>							
5	Sitcoms – Audiences	<i>Man Like Mobeen</i> <i>Friends</i>							
6	Sitcoms – Contexts	<i>Man Like Mobeen</i> <i>Friends</i>							

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Topic Test 1: Sitcoms – Genre

Q1. Which is the most accurate definition of the term 'genre'? Tick the correct

- Whether audiences prefer a comedy or horror or romance
- The type or style of media product
- The codes and conventions of the product

Q2. What are the two 'ingredients' a 'sitcom' made from?

..... and

Q3. Fill in the details about the set products for sitcoms.

	<i>Man Like Mobeen</i>
What is the title of the episode you are studying?	
Which episode and series is it?	
When was it first broadcast?	

Q4. Which of these is usually a code/convention of the genre of sitcom? Tick as

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Murder
<input type="checkbox"/> Detectives or police
<input type="checkbox"/> School or workplace
<input type="checkbox"/> Linear narrative
<input type="checkbox"/> Circular narrative
<input type="checkbox"/> Can be filmed in front of a studio audience | <input type="checkbox"/> Fixed location
<input type="checkbox"/> Funny/comedy moments
<input type="checkbox"/> Scary/frightening moments
<input type="checkbox"/> Narratives deal with domestic, personal, ordinary and everyday events
<input type="checkbox"/> Narratives deal with unusual and dramatic events |
|--|---|

Q5. Look at these examples from *Man Like Mobeen* and *Friends*. First, say whether *Mobeen*, *Friends* or both sitcoms. Then say which code/convention of sitcom

Example	<i>Man Like Mobeen</i> , <i>Friends</i> or both?
The characters are in the same location at both the beginning and end of the episode	
Multiple characters have their own storylines within the episode	
The characters discuss romantic problems	
The episode has multiple locations	
Sarcasm, play on words and innuendos are used throughout	

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Topic Test 2: Sitcoms – Media Language

Q1. Define the term 'establishing shot'.

.....

Q2. Is *Friends* filmed in front of a live studio audience? Answer yes or no.

.....

Q3. Assign the terms in the box to either visual codes, audio codes or technical codes.

high angle shot	costumes	props
non-diegetic sound	close-up	soundtrack



Audio codes





Visual codes

Q4. Find and correct three errors.

Propp suggested that most stories have completely different types of characters. The main characters are the hero and the donor. The hero is usually on a quest to do something or achieve something.

Q5. Select the correct word to make each sentence a true statement about sitcoms.

- a) Sitcoms usually have a **circular/linear** narrative because characters end the story with a **closure/enigma**.
- b) Sitcoms often have a **single/multistranded** narrative which focuses on **closure/enigma**.
- c) Sitcoms usually begin with **enigmas/closure** and end with **enigmas/closure**.

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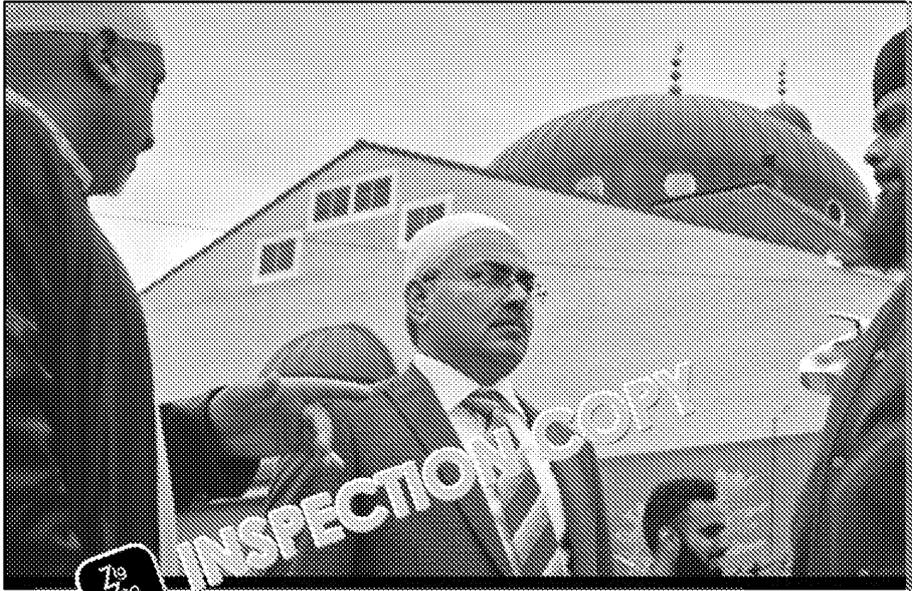
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- c) Connotations of sitting with feet up:
.....
- d) Connotations of Ross holding coffee cup and looking down:
.....
- e) What camera shot is used?
.....
- f) How do visual codes create humour in this scene?
.....



Q8. Look at the image from *Man Like Mobeen*. Add the connotations for each derive from the questions.



Man Like Mobeen Series 1, Episode 2. © Cave Bear and Tiger Aspect,

- a) Connotations of Mobeen's costume:
.....
- b) Connotations of Uncle Shady's costume:
.....
- c) Connotations of Mobeen's movements/posture:
.....
- d) Connotations of the setting:
.....
- e) What camera shot is used?
.....
- f) How do visual codes create humour in this scene?
.....



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Q9. Explain how sitcoms use audio codes to create meaning. Refer to the set episode and give your answer.

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Topic Test 3: Sitcoms – Representation

Q1. Draw lines to match the words with the definitions

Term
a) Stereotype
b) Countertype
c)  Representation
d) Misrepresentation
e) Under-representation

1. A representation from the
2. Where characters represent
3. Where characters represent
4. A fixed and unchangeable idea of characters
5. How much of a particular group is represented

Q2. Fill in the blanks in these sentences with either 'Friends' or 'Man Like Mobeen'

- _____ has been accused of under-representation as it features few female characters.
- _____ may be seen as feminist as there are as many male as female characters.
- _____ could be seen as patriarchal as there are few female characters.
- _____ subverts stereotypes of Islamic culture.
- _____ is more diverse as it includes some people of colour.

Q3. Circle 'true' or 'false' for each sentence.

- Representations in the media are important as many people believe what they see on TV.
- Representations in the media always reflect reality. **True or false?**

Q4. Use the words in the box to complete the paragraph. Use each word once.

narrative	independent	traditional
-----------	-------------	-------------

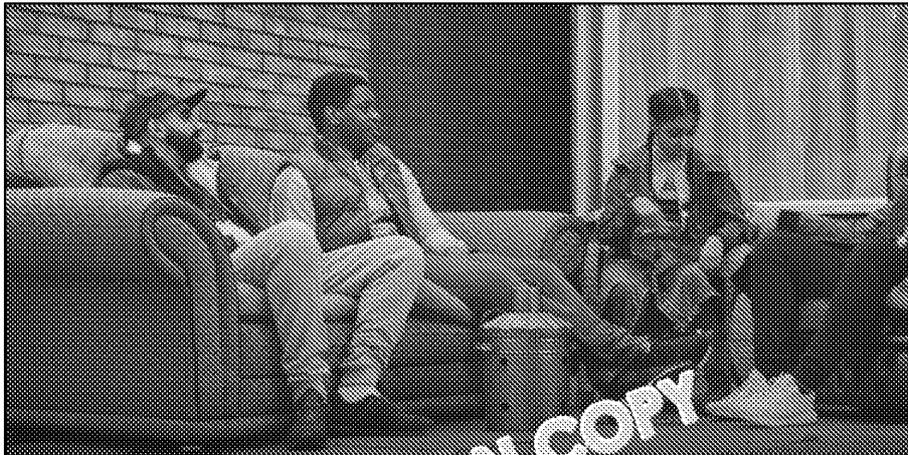
Episode 1 of *Friends* could be considered a) _____ in some ways as it is a _____
 b) _____ of Rachel running away from her wedding and rejecting her
 role as a wife. Instead she tries to support her husband a) _____ b) _____

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Q5. Look at the two images of Mobeen's house in *Man Like Mobeen*. For each a representation of the working class it constructs.



Man Like Mobeen, Series 1, Episode 2. © Cave Bear and Tiger Aspect, BBC, 2002

a) Aasa's costume:

.....

b) Eight's costume:

.....

c) Mobeen's hairstyle:

.....

d) The interior of the kitchen:

.....

e) The exterior of the house:

.....

Q6. Select the most accurate definition of the term 'patriarchal'.

a) A society where power is organised for the benefit of men rather than women

b) A sexist society

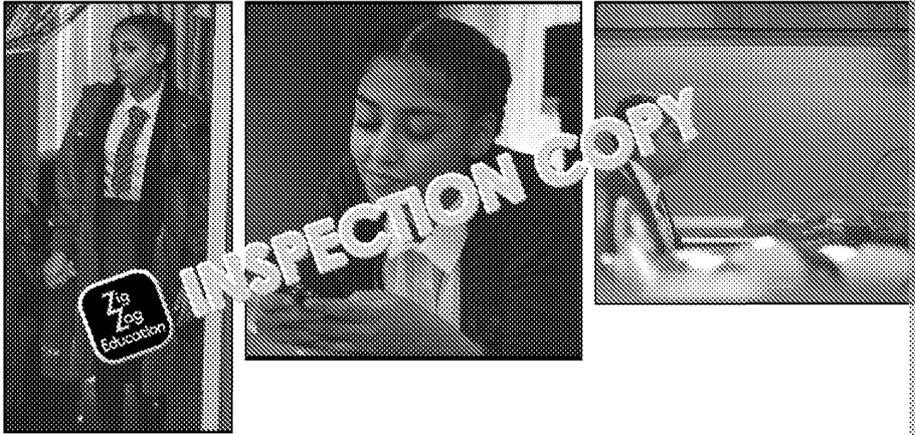
c) A society where women are objectified

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Q7. Look at the images of Aqsa from *Man Like Mobeen*. She is one of the only female characters and is used to show alternative views and representations. For each aspect below, briefly explain what she represents.



Man Like Mobeen Series 1, Episode 2. © Cave Bear and Tiger Aspect

Choice of actor:

.....

Costume:

.....

Positioning / Camera:

.....

Dialogue:

.....

Role in narrative:

.....

Q8. What values are conveyed by the representations in *Man Like Mobeen*? Briefly explain your answer. Representations of (e.g. Mobeen, Uncle Habib, Uncle Shady, Eight, Nats)

.....

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Representations of women (e.g. Aqsa, Khadijah)

.....

.....

Representations of young people (e.g. Aqsa)

.....

.....

Representations of older people (e.g. Uncle Habib, Uncle Shady)

.....

.....

Q9. How far are representations influenced by contexts? In your answer, refer to *Mobeen* and *Friends*.

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Topic Test 1: Sitcoms – Genre

- Q1. Which is the most accurate definition of the term 'genre'?
- Whether audiences prefer a comedy or horror or romance
 - The type or style of media product
 - The codes and conventions of the product
- Q2. What two words is 'sitcom' made from?
- Q3. Answer the questions about the set products for sitcoms [*Man Like Mobeen*].
- What is the title of the episode you are studying?
 - What is the title of the series it is?
 - When was it first broadcast?
- Q4. Which of these is usually a code/convention of the genre of sitcom?
- Murder
 - Detectives or police as main characters
 - Home or workplace setting
 - Linear narrative
 - Circular narrative
 - Can be filmed in front of a studio audience
 - Filmed on location
 - Funny/comedy moments
 - Scary/frightening moments
 - Narratives depicting ordinary and extraordinary events
 - Narratives depicting extraordinary events
 - Episodes usually filmed in front of a studio audience
 - Episodes usually filmed on location
 - Ensemble cast
 - One main lead character
 - Usually made in black and white
- Q5. Look at these examples from *Man Like Mobeen* and *Friends*. First, say whether *Man Like Mobeen*, *Friends* or both sitcoms are like the example. Then say which code/convention of sitcom the example is.
- The characters are in the same location at both the beginning and end of the episode
 - Main characters have their own storylines within the episode
 - The characters discuss romantic problems
 - The episode has multiple locations
 - Sarcasm, play on words and innuendos are used throughout
- Q6. Copy and complete the paragraph below using the terms in the box. Use each word once. You need to use every word.

interested	repetition	variation	conventions
buy	bored	contexts	codes and conventions

Genres often change because of changes in the social, **a)** political or historical changes. There will be a lot of **c)** of codes and conventions of the genre. This applies to all media products. However, there will also be some **b)** of the **f)**, and new and **d)** introduced. This helps to keep the audience **e)** interested.

- Q7. Every sitcom brings something new to the genre. For each sitcom [*Man Like Mobeen*], say what aspect the variation is added new when it was released.
- Q8. 'The genre of sitcom has essentially stayed the same over the years.' How far do you agree with this statement? In your answer, refer to the set episode of *Man Like Mobeen* and *Friends*.

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Q8. Look at the image from *Man Like Mobeen*. Add the connotations for each detail in the questions.



Man Like Mobeen Series 1, Episode 2. © Cave Bear and Tiger Aspect, BBC,

- Connotations of Mobeen's costume
 - Connotations of Uncle Shady's costume
 - Connotations of Mobeen's movements/posture
 - Connotations of the setting
 - What camera shot is used?
 - How do visual codes create humour in this scene?
- Q9. Explain how sitcoms use audio codes to create meaning. Refer to the set episode in your answer.

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Topic Test 3: Sitcoms – Representation

Q1. Match the words with the definitions.

Term	Definition
a) Stereotype	1. A representation which is very different
b) Countertype	2. Where certain social groups are represented
c) Representation	3. Where certain social groups are not represented
d) Over-representation	4. A fixed and sometimes oversimplified view of people
e) Under-representation	5. How media language is used to convey a message

Q2. Copy and complete these sentences with either 'Man Like Mobeen' or 'Friends'.

- _____ has been accused of under-representation as it features very few people of colour.
- _____ may be seen as feminist as there are as many main female characters as male.
- _____ could be seen as patriarchal as there are few female characters.
- _____ subverts stereotypes of Islamic culture.
- _____ is more diverse as it includes some people of colour.

Q3. True or false?

- Representations in the media are important as many people believe what they see on TV.
- Representations in the media always reflect reality.

Q4. Use the words in the box to copy and complete the paragraph. Use each word once.

narrative
 stereotype
 countertype
 traditional

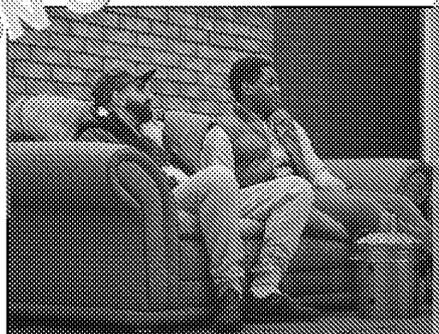
Episode 1 of *Friends* can be considered **a)** in some ways as it focuses on the character of Rachel Green, who is rejecting a **c)** role as a wife. Instead she tries to support her husband.

Q5. Look at the two images of Mobeen's house in *Man Like Mobeen*. For each a) representation of the working class it constructs.



Man Like Mobeen Series 1, Episode 2 (available on YouTube) © Bear and Tiger Aspect, BBC 2011

- A man in a suit
- Eight people in a room
- Mobeen's hairstyle
- The interior of the kitchen
- The exterior of the house



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- Q6. Select the most accurate definition of the term 'patriarchal'.
- Where society is organised for the benefit of men rather than women
 - A sexist society
 - A society where women are objectified
- Q7. Look at the images of Aqsa from *Man Like Mobeen*. She is one of the only female characters and is used to show alternative views and representations. For each aspect of her character, identify how she represents it.



Man Like Mobeen Series 1, Episode 2.

- Choice of actor
 - Costume
 - Positioning/Camerawork
 - Dialogue
 - Role in narrative
- Q8. What values are conveyed by the representations in *Man Like Mobeen*? Briefly explain your answer.
- Representations of men (e.g. Mobeen, Uncle Habib, Uncle Shady, Eight)
 - Representations of women (e.g. Aqsa, Khadijah)
 - Representations of young people (e.g. Aqsa)
 - Representations of older people (e.g. Uncle Habib, Uncle Shady)
- Q9. How far are representations influenced by contexts? In your answer, refer to *Mobeen* and *Friends*.

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Preview of Questions Ends Here

This is a limited inspection copy. Sample of questions ends here to avoid students previewing questions before they are set. See contents page for details of the rest of the resource.

Topic Test 4: Sitcoms – Industries

Q1. c) [1]

Q2. [5]

- NBC
- Channel 4
- David Crane / Marta Kauffman / Martin S. Bright
- BBC Three
- Guz Khan / Andy Milligan

Q3. [7]

- Federal Communications Commission
- TV
- PG
- OFCOM
- BBFC
- YouTube
- Watershed

Q4. [10]

Pre-production

- Prepare a pitch
- Hire a production team
- Hire a show runner
- Network picks up the programme
- Network commissions a pilot

Production

- Film on set
- Film on location

Post-production

- Editing
- Show episodes in 'out season'
- Network pitch to see programme matches the advertising sales

Q5. [8]

	<i>Friends</i>	<i>Man Like Mobeen</i>
Makes a lot of money from official merchandising	✓	
Some unofficial merchandise available, little official merchandise		✓
Employed A-list stars when it started		
Employed mostly unknown actors when it started	✓	
Many episodes received over 20 million viewers	✓	
When it was produced, there was very little digital technology	✓	
Is now available on Netflix		
Was based on a YouTube video		✓

Q6. Answer: 24

- The characters are all representative of both the working class and Muslim communities underrepresented in mainstream media.
- The show was created following the success of Guz Khan making videos of the show was also very successful when only available on BBC Three, a channel that was available online.

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Q7. Answers such as:

a) [2]

It was written by the producers of *Friends* and sung by The Rembrandts. It was owned by Time Warner. Sales of the theme tune song benefited both the company, but also publicised *Friends*. *Friends* was also owned by Time Warner

Q8. Each bullet point below may be worth 2 or 3 marks if there is enough explanation / and *The Man Like Mobeen*. Answers may include points such as: [10]

Man Like Mobeen

- Produced for the BBC, a public service broadcaster with a charter that aims to that represent and serve all communities within the United Kingdom, and the
- Co-written by Alan Yentlow, a comedian who has also written for comedy duo Ant and Dec
- Starred Khan as Mobeen. Khan initially created Mobeen for YouTube where he became very popular. He had previously written for the BBC following the popularity of *Man Like Mobeen*.
- The focus on the Muslim community and the Birmingham setting are reflective of when making the show was to portray both in a more positive light given the unflattering portrayal in the news.
- Has more traditional sitcom conventions such as a focus on family.
- The audience for the third season reached 600,000.
- Was initially aired on BBC Three, which aims to 'celebrate what it is to be young'
- Aimed at a younger audience – it is often discussed on social media.
- It has an 81% and 8/10 rating on Rotten Tomatoes and IMDb, showing the popularity of the show.
- It is available on Netflix, reflecting the change towards on-demand and box-set viewing.

Friends

- Broadcast on NBC in America from 1994 to 2004
- The first series was broadcast on NBC on Thursdays at 8.30pm, hammocked by other popular shows to increase its chance of gaining a large audience share
- The first season was well received and gained around 22 million viewers per episode
- It consistently scored within the top 10 most popular TV series in America when it was first broadcast
- It aims at a large mainstream audience, which may be why the use of sitcom conventions on the programme are all conventional, conservative and mainstream
- It focuses on six young, successful, white Americans, good-looking and ultimately successful, reflecting the aspirational, upper-middle-class section of middle-class society
- As a commercial production there was no necessity to reflect the diversity of the American population
- It is considered one of the most successful and highly rated TV series of all time
- The series was purchased for UK broadcast by Channel 4 and became a staple of the network's programming

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Topic Test 5: Sitcoms – Audiences

Q1. c) [1]

Q2. d) [1]

Q3. [3]

Friends is aimed at a **cult mass/broad/large** **stream** audience of **middle-aged / teen to middle-aged** people, who are mainly **upper-middle class**.

Q4. [4]

- a) middle class
- b) niche
- c) primary

Q5. 1 mark for any five of the boxes below ticked; 1 further mark for each appropriate/valid explanation

- Asian because** this reflects the main character and offers a positive representation of Asian people. The show was also marketed via channels such as BBC Asian Network.
- Working class because** it is set in Birmingham, an area which has a large working class population. The main character is also working class and so provides an element of relatability.
- Male because** the majority of the characters are male and has a lot of male humour.
- Female because** women are represented in a very positive way and, in the case of Rachel, appeals to young female audiences.
- Young (16–20) because** Khan initially created *Mobeen* for short YouTube videos to appeal to a younger audience. He did this while teaching, and, therefore, the original content was aimed at a younger audience.
- Older (over 25) because** the show is now available on Netflix, which requires a subscription. The original content of Khan that are likely to have been aware of him (or content by him) will have been older.

Q6. [4]

- a) reception
- b) dominant
- c) negotiated
- d) or

Q7. 1 mark for each correct selection; 1 further mark for each appropriate/valid explanation

- b) Reformers like to be socially responsible and change the world for the better; *Man Like Mobeen* because it has a diverse cast and shows some women in a more equal way.
- c) Explorers like to try out new things and new technologies; they may watch sitcoms because it represents communities that are not often shown in mainstream media. *Friends* because men and women are quite equal.
- d) Succeeders are financially stable, and they like established, reliable brands; they may watch *Friends* because it is well established and well known to be a good sitcom.
- e) Mainstreamers are happy to do what is popular and what everyone else does; they may watch *Friends* because it is popular and everyone else watches it.
- f) Strugglers find everyday life difficult and may have financial problems; they may watch *Man Like Mobeen* because they are available on free-to-view channels / *Man Like Mobeen* is more relatable to this audience / they offer an escape from everyday problems.

Q8. 1 mark for a valid way each aspect of *Man Like Mobeen* and Katz's uses and gratifications theory

Information

- *Man Like Mobeen* provides information about communities some audiences may not be familiar with.
- *Man Like Mobeen* provides information about new fashions (*Friends*).
- *Man Like Mobeen* provides information about the concerns/interests of young adults (both).

Entertainment

- Both sitcoms offer humour which is entertaining.
- Both sitcoms offer engaging narratives which are entertaining.

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Companionship

- Audiences can 'get to know' and become invested in the sitcom characters over time
- Audiences can participate in conversations about the sitcom
- Audiences can join fan groups and follow online social media dedicated to the sitcom

Identity

- Audiences can relate to certain characters and may see their own concerns and experiences reflected in the show
- Audiences may view some characters as aspirational or role models
- Audiences may base aspects of their 'desired self' on certain characters
- Audiences may self-identify as fans of the sitcom, and may perhaps buy merchandise

Q9. Each bullet point below may be worth 2 or 3 marks if there is enough explanation / justification. Answers may include bullet points such as: [8]

Target

- The writing reflects areas of the UK that have previously faced very negative representation. The show provides a more positive representation and aims to challenge wider stereotypes and the working-class population.
- The characters are all from an underrepresented community. The show provides a more positive representation of a community that may not be familiar with, or held stereotypical ideas about issues such as arranged marriages, family values and class differences.
- The character of Mobeen may already be known to some audiences having seen him on YouTube. Khan is also a well-known comedian who has starred in other programmes.
- Stereotypes are subverted throughout, which would appeal to a younger audience and aim for wider reform and acceptance.

Reach

- It was initially broadcast on BBC Three, which has a demographic of younger people and alternative and diverse programming
- It was broadcast after the watershed to help it reach its primary audience of young people

Maintain

- It is available for free via BBC iPlayer and subscription services such as Netflix, which allows fans to recommend it to new audiences to discover it



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Topic Test 6: Sitcoms – Contexts

Q1. Answers such as: [1]

- The background or setting that influences something
- The background or setting that helps you to fully understand something
- The background factors that may influence or affect a media product

Q2. [9]

Code or convention	Repetition Stayed the same over time (seen in a lot of sitcoms)
a) Narrative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Aimed at mass audience	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Ensemble cast	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Mainly white attractive cast	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Filmed in front of a studio audience	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Narratives deal with everyday events	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Laugh track	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Men are the main characters	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Home or workplace setting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Q3. [6]

- | | | |
|---|----|----|
| Increased number of channels | 3. | b) |
| Digital broadcast and on-demand television programmes | 2. | a) |
| Sitcoms are now more profitable | 1. | c) |

Q4. Answers such as: [4]

Three Men and a Cradle (1987):

- Relatable to the situation between Mobeen, his friends and Aqsa
- Mobeen is as clueless as the men in the film about how to raise his sister
- The life Mobeen is living (and the representation this creates) is more realistic

The Goonies (1985)

- Mobeen and his friends also come across as misfits
- The film is aimed at children, showing how childish Mobeen and his friends are
- The title implies a sense of silliness, which is clearly demonstrated by Mobeen meant to have responsibilities

Both films also provide a sense of safety and nostalgia which the audience would be seeking.

Q5. [4]

The BBC is a **public service / a commercial channel / both a public service and a commercial channel** and its remit to make innovative programmes that appeal to **minority / mainstream / both** audiences.

NBC is a **public service / a commercial channel / both a public service and a commercial channel** and its programmes which **make a profit / serve the community**.

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- Q6. Answers such as: [6]
- **Twixter generation:** All the main characters are young adults who are in between
 - **The American dream:** Most of the characters have moved to the city to pursue
 - **Feminism:** Rachel has rejected a traditional role as wife to pursue her own dream
 - **The 'new man':** Ross expresses his feelings openly / Ross and Chandler often break traditionally masculine
 - **Patriarchy:** Rachel relies on her father for money; Rachel escapes a patriarchal system for the only professional / highly paid jobs (in the beginning)
 - **Lack of diversity:** All the characters are young, white (although Ross and Joey play an Italian-American)
- Q7. Answers such as: [5]
- **Class system:** The setting and characters clearly belong to a more deprived area
 - **Female empowerment:** Aqsa has very strong values and is able to take charge of Mobeen and her life
 - **Female issues:** The narrative for both this episode and the show as a whole centres on Aqsa and wanting to provide her with a stable life.
 - **Patriarchy:** The majority of the characters are male.
 - **Diversity:** The show centres around Mobeen, a Muslim man, and the Islamic community
- Q8. Each bullet point below may be worth 2 or 3 marks if there is enough explanation / analysis of *Mobeen* and *Friends*. Answers may argue that sitcoms are or are not influenced by context and may include points such as: [10]

Points suggesting sitcoms are influenced by contexts:

- *Man Like Mobeen* focuses on underrepresented communities within the UK and challenges stereotypes regarding them.
- Narratives are influenced by social and cultural contexts, such as the reference to his father and his aim to overcome his past.
- Narratives are influenced by social and political contexts, such as highlighting forced marriages, which many audiences may be unaware of.
- *Man Like Mobeen* is influenced by patriarchal social context although it tries to challenge it and shows feminist ideals even though Mobeen is a minority as the majority of the characters are white.
- Several issues and comments such as the Habib's joke about suicide bombing are directly representative of political contexts. Later issues such as knife violence are directly representative of the crew had to deal with while filming to help a victim of an attack.
- *Friends* is influenced by the historical context of the time it was set in, having set in the 1990s.
- *Friends* is influenced by the feminist social context. In Series 1, Episode 1, Rachel challenges conventional values for women: she runs away from her wedding and tries to start her own business.
- *Friends* is influenced by the social context of the 'extension of childhood' in the 1990s, portraying this age group as having few responsibilities and enjoying an extended adolescence.
- *Friends* is influenced by the social context of the 'new man,' e.g. Ross is very expressive about his feelings.

Points suggesting sitcoms are not influenced by contexts:

- The economic context makes it easier for sitcoms to be pitched, green-lit and produced within generic conventions
- Sitcoms are also more likely to be successful with audiences and make a profit within generic conventions
- Both *Man Like Mobeen* and *Friends* follow generic conventions, such as:
 - The 'situation' which traps or limits the protagonists, e.g. living a largely isolated life in New York in *Friends*
 - The focus on comedy
 - A small group of protagonists in a room or on an equal ensemble
 - A focus on a group of friends, colleagues or a family
 - A focus on 'lovable losers'
 - A circular narrative where characters tend to return to the same point in the story

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