



Topic Tests for GCSE AQA

Media Two, Section A: Television

S Mills and R Morrison

Second Edition, February 2024

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Teacher's Introduction

This resource is for use with GCSE AQA (8572) Media Studies: Media Two Section A: Television and relates specifically to the set products for this course (for exams from 2024):

- *His Dark Materials*, Series 2, Episode 1 – 'The City of Magpies' (2020)
- *Doctor Who*, Series 1, Episode 1 – 'An Unearthly Child' (1963)

Remember!

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

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.

Each tests is 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	Genre	<i>His Dark Materials</i> <i>Doctor Who</i>	45
2	Media Language	<i>His Dark Materials</i> <i>Doctor Who</i>	45
3	Representation	<i>His Dark Materials</i> <i>Doctor Who</i>	45
4	Industries	<i>His Dark Materials</i> <i>Doctor Who</i>	45
5	Audiences	<i>His Dark Materials</i> <i>Doctor Who</i>	45
6	Contexts	<i>His Dark Materials</i> <i>Doctor Who</i>	45

S Mills and R Morrison, February 2024

Second Edition, February 2024

Amendments have been made to the resource so that it is relevant to the 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	Set products	Before completing the test			After completing the test			Score out of 45
			Not very confident	Almost confident	Very confident	Not very confident	Almost confident	Very confident	
1	Genre	<i>His Dark Materials</i> <i>Doctor Who</i>							
2	Media Language	<i>His Dark Materials</i> <i>Doctor Who</i>							
3	Representation	<i>His Dark Materials</i> <i>Doctor Who</i>							
4	Industries	<i>His Dark Materials</i> <i>Doctor Who</i>							
5	Audiences	<i>His Dark Materials</i> <i>Doctor Who</i>							
6	Contexts	<i>His Dark Materials</i> <i>Doctor Who</i>							

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Topic Test 1: Genre

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

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

Q2. Briefly explain what a 'generic convention' is.

.....

.....

Q3. Which does each code/convention mainly belong to? Put either 'SF' for science fiction or 'FD' for family drama.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teenagers/children are among the main characters | <input type="checkbox"/> Recurring locations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aliens or time/space travellers are among the main characters | <input type="checkbox"/> Narratives depicting ordinary and extraordinary events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary characters include the child/teen's friends and family | <input type="checkbox"/> Narratives depicting extraordinary events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The lead character has special knowledge or powers | <input type="checkbox"/> Linear narratives ending by the end of the series |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Iconic signifiers, such as spaceships, other worlds and advanced technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Episodes including cliffhangers |

Q4. Look at these examples from *His Dark Materials* and *Doctor Who*. Identify which genre **fiction** each is an example of. Use the list in Q3 to help you.

Example	Which code/convention does it belong to?
The Doctor is a time traveller.	
Barbara and Ian are kidnapped and taken to another time or planet.	
Ian fights with the Doctor; Lyra fights with Will.	
Lyra is referred to as special in a way that she is one of only a few people who can read the alethiometer.	
The TARDIS has advanced technology.	
Lyra and Will travel to another dimension.	
Lyra and Will from <i>His Dark Materials</i> , and Susan from <i>Doctor Who</i> , are teenagers/children.	
One of the main locations in <i>Doctor Who</i> is Susan's school.	

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Q5. Select the correct word/phrase to complete the sentence accurately. [6]
Doctor Who fits into the a) **hybrid genre / subgenre** of science fiction called **sci-fi** / **action sci-fi**. This is because it is mainly science fiction but usually has some **fantasy** escapes in each episode.

His Dark Materials is a more c) **modern / traditional** family drama. We can see **elements** / **episodes** / **enigmas** that it uses from fantasy drama, such as the fact it uses **magic**. *His Dark Materials* is also f) **a spin-off / an adaptation**.

Q6. Fill in the blanks in this paragraph using the terms in the box. Use each word only once. Use every word.

interested	repetition	variation	conventions
buy	born	contexts	codes and conventions

Genres of science fiction change because of changes in the social, a) **contexts**.
 b) **conventions**, but not everything changes. There will be a lot of **codes and conventions** of the genre. This helps audiences to d) **buy** the products. However, there will also be some e) **variation** of the new and unique aspects will be introduced. This helps to keep the audience interested.

Q7. The genres of fantasy and family drama are constantly evolving, and each new programme adds something new to the genre. For each programme, identify an aspect that was original when it was released.

Doctor Who:

.....

.....

His Dark Materials:

.....

.....

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Q8. 'The genre of science fiction has essentially stayed the same over the years.'
this statement? In your answer, refer to the set episodes of *Doctor Who* and

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Topic Test 2: Media Language


Q1. Define the term 'establishing shot'.

Q2. Assign the semiotic terms in the box to either visual codes, audio codes or text codes.

high-angle shot	costumes	props
non-diegetic sound	soundtrack	setting

Audio codes



Visual codes

Q3. Find and correct three errors.

Propp suggested that most stories have completely different types of heroes. The hero also usually has a sidekick known as a princess. The conflict is driven by the despatcher drives the narrative.

Q4. Select the correct word to make each sentence a true statement.

- Older science fiction and fantasy series such as *Doctor Who* used to have **one** episode which focused on solving one main enigma.
- Science fiction and fantasy series today often have a **single/multistrand** which may continue over episodes and series.
- Science fiction episodes usually begin with **enigmas/closure** and end with closure.

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Q5. Todorov's narrative theory has five main stages. Put the stages in order, and event from the narrative of the set episode of *Doctor Who*.

Stages:

Complication
Disruption
Resolution
Climax
Exposition

Events:

The teachers are kidnapped.
A girl goes to Coal Hill School.
The teachers find out that the girl lives in a junkyard.
The man and the girl are revealed to be the travellers.
The girl seems to have underworld knowledge.

 Stage 1:	 Event:
Stage 2:	 Event:
Stage 3:	 Event:
Stage 4:	 Event:
Stage 5:	 Event:

Q6. Give one example of how binary opposites are used in *Doctor Who* and one are used in *His Dark Materials*.

Doctor Who:

His Dark Materials:

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Q7. Look at the image from *Doctor Who*. Add the connotations for each denotation

- a) Connotations of the Doctor's facial expression:

.....

.....

.....

.....



- b) Connotations of the setting:

.....

.....

.....

- c) What camera shot is used, and why?

.....

.....

- d) How do visual codes create tension in this scene?

.....

.....

Q8. Look at the image from *His Dark Materials*. Add the connotations for each denotation to the questions.

- a) Connotations of Lyra's facial expression:

.....

.....

.....

.....



- b) Connotations of the over-the-shoulder camera angle:

.....

.....

- c) What camera angle is used, and why?

.....

.....

- d) How do visual codes create tension in this scene?

.....

.....

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Q9. Explain how science fiction programmes use narrative structures to create an episode of *His Dark Materials* in your answer.

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Topic Test 3: Representation

Q1. Draw lines to match the words with the definitions.

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

1. A representation that differs from reality
2. Where a representation is not true
3. Where a representation is true
4. A fixed idea or opinion of people
5. How many different versions of a character there are

Q2. Fill in the blanks in these sentences with either 'Doctor Who', 'His Dark Materials' or 'The Big Bang Theory'.

- _____ has been accused of under-representation as it features only white characters.
- _____ may be seen as feminist as there is a main female character.
- _____ could be seen as patriarchal as the male characters are the main focus.
- _____ uses countertypes of heroes.
- _____ is diverse as it includes some people of colour.

Q3. Circle either '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 / False?

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

protagonists	countertypes	stereotypes
--------------	--------------	-------------

Doctor Who relies more on a) _____ for its characters than *His Dark Materials*. *Doctor Who* the b) _____ are simplified representations of men, women and children, whereas the characters in *His Dark Materials* often show c) _____ giving more d) _____.

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5. Look at the image from *His Dark Materials*. For each of the aspects below, be representation of women it constructs and *how* it constructs this.



His Dark Materials

- a) Mrs Coulter's stance, props and position

.....

.....

- b) Mrs Coulter's costume, hair and make-up

.....

.....

- c) The costume and expression of the witch

.....

.....

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

☐

a) Where society 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 image from *Doctor Who*. Give two reasons why the representation is considered patriarchal, and two reasons why they could be considered feminist.



Doctor Who

Patriarchal:

.....

.....

Feminist:

.....

.....

- Q8. What values are conveyed by the representations in *His Dark Materials*? Briefly explain.

Representations of gender (e.g. men and women)

.....

.....

Representations of children (e.g. Lyra, Will, Angelica and Paola)

.....

.....

Representations of people of colour (e.g. Will Parry, Ruta Skadi)

.....

.....

Representations of parents (e.g. Mrs Coulter as Lyra's mother, and Lord Asriel)

.....

.....

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Q9. How far are representations influenced by contexts? In your answer, refer to *Doctor Who* and *His Dark Materials*.

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Topic Test 4: Industries

Q1. Select the correct answer(s) for each question. Tick either one, two or three.

a) The BBC is a:

- ☐ public service broadcaster
- ☐ commercial broadcaster
- ☐ charitable foundation
- ☐ government department

b) The BBC is mainly funded by:

- ☐ donations
- ☐ selling advertising
- ☐ the licence fee
- ☐ selling programmes overseas

c) Secondary sources of funding for the BBC include:

- ☐ selling programme formats to commercial producers
- ☐ selling merchandise
- ☐ selling programmes overseas
- ☐ selling advertising space

Q2. Fill in the details about the set products.

	<i>His Dark Materials</i>	
In what year was it first broadcast?		
On which channel was it first broadcast?		
At what time was it first broadcast?		
What is the age rating of the DVD?		

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Q3. Fill in the gaps in the following paragraph with the words in the box. You do not have to use all the words but you cannot use a word more than once.

franchises merchandise spin-offs longest-running most expensive
commercial licence books *Torchwood* inspector spacetime


Doctor Who is the a) _____ science fiction series on television including b) _____, *The Sarah Jane Adventures*, *K9* and *Class*. It is one of the three most successful c) _____. BBC Worldwide is the d) _____ BBC. There is a lot of *Doctor Who* e) _____ available, such as books and video games. Sales of the f) _____ and the merchandise bring in a lot of money for the BBC.

Q4. Who does what in these stages of the production process to either the TV production company.

Commissioning	Funding	Directing	Writing
Editing	Filming	Scheduling	Cast



TV Channel



Q5. Complete the table by ticking the correct box. Tick only one box on each line.

	<i>His Dark Materials</i>	<i>Doctor Who</i>
It stars some established actors		
It was broadcast in multiple countries		
It was initially broadcast on a digital channel		
It started as an educational programme		
There is a lot of merchandise available		
It is available on streaming sites, such as Amazon Prime and HBO Max		

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Q6. In what ways are *Doctor Who* and *His Dark Materials* influenced by their context? In your answer, refer to:

- public service broadcasting
- relevant contexts

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Topic Test 5: Audiences

Q1. Select the correct definition of the term 'active audience'.

☐
☐
☐
☐

- a) Those who are the main target group for the programme
- b) Audience groups who keep fit and take exercise
- c) Audiences who make their own decisions about what they watch
- d) Audiences who accept and believe in what they see on TV

Q2. Select the correct definition of the term 'passive audience'.

☐
☐
☐
☐

- a) A lazy audience group who watch too much TV
- b) Audience groups who don't agree with what they watch
- c) Those who are the secondary audience group for the programme
- d) Audiences who accept and believe in what they see on TV

Q3. Fill in the details about the set products.

	<i>Doctor Who</i>
Who was the most famous actor?	
Name one programme the actor had appeared in before	

Q4. Why do production companies like to hire actors who are already well known?

1.
2.

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

- a) Many programmes target **a niche / a mainstream / an active** audience in their viewing figures.
- b) BBC One usually schedules *Doctor Who* on a **Monday / Friday / Saturday** target audience.
- c) *Doctor Who* has good viewing figures, with audiences of around 4 million in its first series.
- d) *His Dark Materials* was broadcast in **summer / spring / autumn** because children are spending more time inside in the evenings and might be looking for comfort.
- e) The chosen episode of *His Dark Materials* gained audiences of almost 4 million in the UK.

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Q6. Tick the **three most likely** attributes of the typical audiences for *His Dark Materials*. If you have ticked, briefly explain why you think *His Dark Materials* appeals to this type of audience.

☐ Mainly male audience because

☐ Mixed male and female audience because

☐ Mainly female audience because.....

☐ Teens because

☐ Adults (25–40) because

☐ Diverse mixed audience because

☐ Mainly white audience because

Q7. Fill in the blanks in this paragraph using the terms in the box. Use each word once.

negotiated reception oppositional

a) _____ theory suggests people respond to media products in different ways. Some people take the b) _____ reading, where they fully accept and understand the intended meanings. Some people take a c) _____ reading, where they understand the intended meaning but don't fully accept it. Other people may take a d) _____ reading, where they reject the intended meaning or read the text in ways not intended by the producer.

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Q8. Television producers often use psychographics to define their audience. Choose *one* you would watch ***Doctor Who / His Dark Materials / both / neither***, and briefly explain why it has been done for you.

- a) Aspirers like to follow what famous people and celebrities do; they may watch ~~*Doctor Who / His Dark Materials / both / neither*~~ because *both series have famous actors and aspirers like to follow what celebrities do*
- b) Reformers like to be socially responsible and change the world for the better. They may watch programmes such as ***Doctor Who / His Dark Materials / both / neither*** because
- c) Explorers like to try out new things and new technologies; they may watch ***Doctor Who / His Dark Materials / both / neither*** because
- d) Succeeders are financially stable, and they like established and reliable television programmes such as ***Doctor Who / His Dark Materials / both / neither*** because
- e) Mainstreamers are happy to do what is popular and what everyone else is doing. They may watch programmes such as ***Doctor Who / His Dark Materials / both / neither*** because
- f) Strugglers find everyday life difficult and may have financial problems; they may watch programmes such as ***Doctor Who / His Dark Materials / both / neither*** because

Q9. How does watching science fiction programmes fulfil an audience's needs? For each of Katz's uses and gratifications theory, give ***one*** way watching science fiction programmes fulfil a need.

<p>Information</p>	<p>Companionship</p>
<p>Entertainment</p>	<p>Ideals</p>

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Topic Test 6: Contexts

Q1. Define the term 'context.'

.....

Q2. Draw lines to match the context to the example.

Example
References to popular music or fashion
In 1961, Yuri Gagarin was the first person to go into space
Anti-discrimination laws have been set
Changes have been made about the role of women

Q3. Genres change over time, partly because contexts change, but some aspects stay the same. For each aspect, decide whether it has mainly stayed the same (repetition) or whether it has changed over time (variation).

Code and convention	Repetition Stayed the same over time (seen in a lot of science fiction programmes)
a) Mainly white cast	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Recurring locations, such as a spaceship	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Aliens are usually savages or villains	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Enigmas, suspense and tension	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Main characters are male	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Iconic signifiers, such as advanced technology and weapons	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Action sequences	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Lead characters with special powers/knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Q4. How have changes in the television industry influenced TV programmes? Draw a mind map showing cause, effect and influence.

Cause	Effect
Increased number of channels	a. Scripts with Young Adult characters and themes will be commissioned
Digital broadcast and storage of television programmes	b. More on-demand / on-set viewing
Young Adult films and books, such as <i>The Hunger Games</i> , have become very popular	c. Each channel has a smaller share of the audience

Q5. Select the correct word or phrase to make each sentence true.

BBC One is **a public service / a commercial / both a public service and a commercial**.

The BBC has to follow a remit to make programmes that appeal to **minority / majority / both minority and mainstream** audiences.

The BBC tries to make programmes which **make a profit / serve the community / both make a profit and serve the community**.

Q6. For each context, give an example of how it is shown in *Doctor Who*.

Interest in space travel:

.....

Patriarchy:

.....

Lack of diversity:

.....

Q7. For each context, give an example of how it is shown in *It's Dark Materials*.

Feminism:

.....

Teenagers are more independent:

.....

Ethnically diverse population:

.....

Audiences can watch back episodes or recap plots, so narratives and characters are more complex:

.....

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Q8. Give four reasons why *Doctor Who* might be considered outdated by today's

1.
2.
3.
4.

Q9. How far do you think science fiction programmes are influenced by contexts and the settings of *His Dark Materials* and *Doctor Who*.

.....

.....

.....

.....

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Topic Test 1: 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. Briefly explain what a 'generic convention' is.
- Q3. Which genre does each code/convention mainly belong to? Put either 'SF' for science fiction or 'FD' for family drama.
- Teenagers/children are among the main characters
 - Recurring locations, such as a school and home
 - Aliens or time/space travellers are among the main characters
 - Narratives deal with domestic, personal, ordinary and everyday events
 - Secondary characters include a child/teen's friends and family
 - Narratives deal with unusual and dramatic events
 - The main character has special knowledge or powers
 - Linear narrative whereby the problem is solved by the end of the episode
 - Iconic signifiers, such as spaceships, other worlds and advanced technology
 - Episodes include action sequences
- Q4. Look at these examples from *His Dark Materials* and *Doctor Who*. Identify what genre **fiction** each is an example of. Use the list in Q3 to help you.
- The Doctor is a time traveller.
 - Barbara and Ian are kidnapped and taken to another time or planet.
 - Ian fights with the Doctor; Lyra fights with Will.
 - Lyra is referred to as special in a prophecy, and she is one of only a few who can use the alethiometer.
 - The TARDIS has advanced technology.
 - Lyra and Will travel to another dimension.
 - Lyra and Will from *His Dark Materials*, and Susan from *Doctor Who*, are orphans.
 - One of the main locations in DW is Susan's school.
- Q5. Select the correct word/phrase to complete the sentence accurately.
- Doctor Who* fits into the a) **hybrid genre / subgenre** of science fiction called **science fiction / action sci-fi**. This is because it is mainly science fiction but usually has some elements of fantasy or horror. It also has some **fantasy** elements in each episode.
- His Dark Materials* is more of a c) **modern / traditional** family drama. We can see many **conventions / episodes / enigmas** that it uses from fantasy drama, such as the **fantasy** world of *His Dark Materials* and the **adult** protagonists. *His Dark Materials* is also f) **a spin-off / an adaptation** of the *His Dark Materials* books.
- Q6. Copy and complete this paragraph using the terms in the box. Use each word only once.

interested	repetition	variation	conventions
buy	bored	content	codes and conventions

Genres often change because of changes in the social, a) _____, and the way we live. b) _____, but not everything changes. There will be a lot of codes and conventions of the genre. This helps audiences to d) _____ the product. However, there will also be some e) _____ of the new and unique aspects will be introduced. This helps to keep the audience interested.

- Q7. The genres of fantasy and family drama are constantly evolving, and each new programme adds something new to the genre. For each programme, identify an aspect that was new when it was released.
- Q8. 'The genre of science fiction has essentially stayed the same over the years.' Do you agree with this statement? In your answer, refer to the set episodes of *Doctor Who* and *His Dark Materials*.

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Topic Test 2: Media Language

- Q1. Define the term 'establishing shot'.
- Q2. Assign the semiotic terms in the box to either visual codes, audio codes or text codes.

high-angle shot	costumes	props
non-diegetic sound	soundtrack	setting

- Q3. Find and correct three errors.
- Propp suggested that most stories have completely different types of characters. The first is the hero, the second is the sidekick known as a princess. The conflict between the hero and the despatcher is the main conflict.
- Q4. Select the correct word to make each sentence a correct statement.
- Older science fiction and fantasy series such as *Doctor Who* used to have a narrative in each episode which focused on solving one main enigma.
 - Science fiction and fantasy series today often have a **single/multistrand** narrative. This means that the story may continue across episodes and series.
 - Science fiction episodes usually begin with **enigmas/closure** and end with closure.
- Q5. Todorov's narrative theory has five main stages. Put the stages in order, and add an event from the narrative of the set episode of *Doctor Who*.

Stages:

Complication
Disruption
Resolution
Climax
Exposition

Events:

The teachers are kidnapped.
A girl goes to Coal Hill School.
The teachers find out that the girl lives in a junkyard.
The man and the girl are revealed to be time travellers.
The girl seems to have unusual knowledge.

- Q6. Give one example of how binary opposites are used in *Doctor Who* and one example of how binary opposites are used in *His Dark Materials*.
- Q7. Look at the image from *Doctor Who*. Add the connotations for each denotation.



Doctor Who © BBC, 1963

- Connotations of the expression:
- Connotations of the expression:
- What camera angle is used?
- How do visual codes create meaning?

- Q8. Look at the image from *His Dark Materials*. Add the connotations for each denotation.



His Dark Materials © BBC, 2007

- Connotations of Lyra's face:
- Connotations of the over-the-shoulder shot:
- What camera angle is used?
- How do visual codes create meaning?

- Q9. Explain how science fiction programmes use narrative structures to create meaning. Use the episode of *His Dark Materials* in your answer.

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Topic Test 3: Representation

Q1. Match the words with the definitions.

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

Definition
1. A representation which is very different
2. Where certain social groups are represented
3. Where certain social groups are not represented
4. A fixed and sometimes oversimplified image of people
5. How media language is used to convey a message

Q2. Complete these sentences with either 'Doctor Who', 'His Dark Materials' or 'The Handmaid's Tale'.

- _____ has been accused of under-representation as it features only white characters.
- _____ may be seen as feminist as there is a main female character.
- _____ could be seen as patriarchal as the male characters are the main focus.
- _____ uses countertypes of heroes.
- _____ is diverse as it includes some people of colour.

Q3. Choose either 'True' or 'False' for each sentence.

- Representations in the media are important as many people believe what they see.
- Representations in the media always reflect reality. True / False?

Q4. Copy and complete the paragraph below using the words in the box. Use each word only once.

protagonists countertypes verisimilitude

Doctor Who relies more on a) _____ for its characters than *His Dark Materials*.
 The b) _____ are simplified representations of men, women, and children.
 Characters in *His Dark Materials* often show c) _____ of heroes and villains.
 d) _____

5. Look at the image from *His Dark Materials*. For each of the aspects below, describe the representation of women it constructs and *how* it constructs this.



His Dark Materials

- Mrs Coulter's stance, props and position
- Mrs Coulter's costume, hair and make-up
- The costume and expression of the witch

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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 image from *Doctor Who*. Give two reasons why the representation is considered patriarchal, and two reasons why they could be considered feminist.



Doctor Who © BBC

- Q8. What values are conveyed by the representations in *His Dark Materials*? Briefly explain.
- Representations of gender (e.g. men and women)
 - Representations of children (e.g. Lyra, Will, Angelica and Paola)
 - Representations of people of colour (e.g. Will Parry, Ruta Skadi)
 - Representations of parents (e.g. Mrs Coulter as Lyra's mother, and Lord Asriel)
- Q9. How far are representations influenced by contexts? In your answer, refer to *Doctor Who* and *His Dark Materials*.

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Topic Test 4: Industries

Q1. Select the correct answer(s) for each question. Choose either one, two or three.

- a) The BBC is a:
- public service broadcaster
 - commercial broadcaster
 - charitable foundation
 - government department
- b) The BBC is mainly funded by:
- donations
 - selling advertising
 - the licence fee
 - selling programmes overseas
- c) Secondary sources of funding for the BBC include:
- selling programme rights
 - selling merchandise
 - selling programmes overseas
 - selling advertising space

Q2. Copy and complete the table below about the set products.

	<i>His Dark Materials</i>
In what year was it first broadcast?	
On which channel was it first broadcast?	
At what time was it first broadcast?	
What is the age rating of the DVD?	

Q3. Fill in the gaps in the following paragraph with the words in the box. You do not have to use all the words, but you cannot use a word more than once.

franchises merchandise spin-offs longest-running most expensive
commercial licence books *Torchwood* inspector spacetime

Doctor Who is the a) _____ science fiction series on television, including b) _____, *The Sarah Jane Adventures*, *K9* and *Class*. It is one of the three most successful c) _____. BBC Worldwide is the d) _____ of the BBC. There is a lot of *Doctor Who* e) _____ available, such as books and video games. Sales of the f) _____ and the merchandise bring in a lot of money for the BBC.

Q4. Who does what? Assign these stages of the production process to either the BBC or the TV production company.

Commissioning	Funding	Directing	Writing
Editing	Filming	Scheduling	Casting

Q5. Copy and complete the table by ticking the correct box. Tick only one box on each row.

	Yes	No
It starred some established actors		
It was broadcast in more than one country		
It was initially broadcast on a digital channel		
It starred an educational programme		
There is a lot of merchandise available		
It is available on streaming sites, such as Amazon Prime and HBO Max		

Q6. In what ways are *Doctor Who* and *His Dark Materials* influenced by their contexts? In your answer, refer to:

- public service broadcasting
- relevant contexts

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Topic Test 5: Audiences

- Q1. Select the correct definition of the term 'active audience'.
- Those who are the main target group for the programme
 - Audience groups who keep fit and take exercise
 - Audiences who make their own decisions about what they watch and why
 - Audiences who accept and believe in what they see on TV

- Q2. Select the correct definition of the term 'passive audience'.
- A lazy audience group who watch too much TV
 - Audiences who don't agree with what they watch
 - Those who are the secondary audience group for the programme
 - Audiences who accept and believe in what they see on TV

- Q3. Copy and complete the table about the set products.

	Doctor Who
Who is the most famous actor?	
Name one programme the actor had appeared in before	

- Q4. Why do production companies like to hire actors who are already well known?
- Q5. Select the correct word to make each sentence a true statement.
- Many programmes target a **niche / a mainstream / an active** audience by using high viewing figures.
 - BBC One usually schedules *Doctor Who* early on a **Monday / Friday / Saturday** to reach its target audience.
 - Doctor Who* gained good viewing figures, with audiences of around 4 million in its first series.
 - His Dark Materials* was broadcast in **summer / spring / autumn** because children are spending more time inside in the evenings and might be looking for escapism.
 - The chosen episode of *His Dark Materials* gained audiences of around 4 million in the UK.

- Q6. Choose the **three most likely** attributes of the typical audiences for *His Dark Materials*. Briefly explain why you think *His Dark Materials* appeals to this type of person.
- Mainly male audience because
 - Mixed male and female audience because
 - Mainly female audience because
 - Teens because
 - Adults (25–40) because
 - Diverse mixed audience because
 - Mainly white audience because

- Q7. Copy and complete this paragraph using the terms in the box. Use each word once.

negotiated	reception	oppositional
------------	-----------	--------------

- a) _____ theory suggests people respond to media products in different ways. Some people take the b) _____ reading, where they fully accept and understand the intended meanings. Some people take a c) _____ reading, where they understand the meaning but don't fully accept it. Other people may take a d) _____ reading, where they reject the intended meaning or read the text in ways not intended by the producer.

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Q8. Television producers often use psychographics to define their audience. Choose **one** you would watch *Doctor Who* / *His Dark Materials* / **both** / **neither**, and briefly explain why this has been done for you.

- a) Aspirers like to follow what famous people and celebrities do; they may watch ~~*Doctor Who / His Dark Materials*~~ / **both** / **neither** because *both series are about actors and aspirers like to follow what celebrities do*
- b) Reformers like to be socially responsible and change the world for the better; they may watch programmes such as *Doctor Who / His Dark Materials* / **both** / **neither**
- c) Explorers like to try out new things and new technologies; they may watch *Doctor Who / His Dark Materials* / **both** / **neither** because
- d) Succeeders are financially stable, and they like established and reliable programmes such as *Doctor Who / His Dark Materials* / **both** / **neither**
- e) Mainstreamers are happy to do what is popular and what everyone else is doing; they may watch programmes such as *Doctor Who / His Dark Materials* / **both** / **neither**
- f) Strugglers find everyday life a constant struggle and may have financial problems; they may watch *Doctor Who / His Dark Materials* / **both** / **neither** because

Q9. How do watching science fiction programmes fulfil an audience's needs? Refer to Katz's uses and gratifications theory, give **one** way watching science fiction programmes fulfil an audience's needs.

Q10. How did the first series of *Doctor Who* target, reach and maintain its audience?

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Topic Test 6: Contexts

Q1. Define the term 'context.'

Q2. Match the context to the example.

Example
References to popular music or fashion
In 1961, Yuri Gagarin was the first person to go into space
Anti-discrimination laws passed
Changes in beliefs about the role of women

Q3. Genres change over time, partly because of external change, but some aspects of each aspect, decide whether it has mainly stayed the same (repetition) or varied over time (variation).

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| a) Mainly white characters | e) Main characters |
| b) Long locations, such as a spaceship | f) Iconic signifiers and weapons |
| c) Aliens are usually savages or villains | g) Action sequences |
| d) Enigmas, suspense and tension | h) Lead characters |

Q4. How have changes in the television industry influenced TV programmes? Link cause and effect.

Cause	Effect
Increased number of channels	a. Scripts with Young Adult characters and themes will be commissioned
Digital broadcast and storage of television programmes	b. More on-demand/box-set viewing
Young Adult films and books, such as <i>The Hunger Games</i> , proved very popular	c. Each channel has a smaller share of the audience

Q5. Select the correct word or phrase to make each sentence true.

BBC One is a **public service** / a **commercial** / **both a public service and a commercial**.
The BBC has to follow a remit to make programmes that appeal to **minority** / **mainstream** / **both minority and mainstream** audiences.

The BBC tries to make programmes which **make a profit** / **serve the community** / **both make a profit and serve the community**.

Q6. For each context, give an example of how it is shown in *Doctor Who*.

- Interest in space travel
- Patriarchy

Q7. For each context, give an example of how it is shown in *His Dark Materials*.

- Feminism
- Teenagers are more independent
- Audiences can watch back episodes or recap plots, so narratives and characters are more complicated

Q8. Give four reasons why *Doctor Who* might be considered outdated by today's standards.

Q9. How far do you think science fiction programmes are influenced by contexts? Give examples from the set episodes of *His Dark Materials* and *Doctor Who*.

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Answers

Topic Test 1: Genre

Q1. The type or style of media product [1]

Q2. Answers such as: an aspect of narrative, character, location or design that is specific to a

Q3. [10]

FD	Teenagers/children are among the main characters
SF	Aliens or time/space travellers are among the main characters
FD	Secondary characters include the child/teen's friends and family
SF	The lead character has special knowledge or powers
SF	Iconic signifiers, such as spaceships, other worlds and advanced technology
FD	Recurring locations such as a school and home
FD	Narratives deal with domestic, personal, ordinary and everyday events
SF	Narratives deal with unusual and dramatic events
SF	Linear narrative whereby the problem is solved by the end of the episode or
SF	Episodes include action sequences

Q4. [8]

Example	Which code/convention
The Doctor is a time traveller.	The lead character has special knowledge time/space travellers are among the main characters
Barbara and Ian are kidnapped and taken to another time or planet.	Narratives deal with unusual and dramatic action sequences
Ian argues with the Doctor; Lyra argues with Will.	Narratives deal with domestic, personal
Lyra is referred to as special in a prophecy, and she is one of only a few people who can read the alethiometer.	The lead character has special knowledge such as spaceships, other worlds and advanced technology
The TARDIS has advanced technology.	Iconic signifiers, such as spaceships, other worlds and advanced technology
Lyra and Will travel to another dimension.	Narratives deal with unusual and dramatic action sequences has special knowledge or powers
Lyra and Will from <i>His Dark Materials</i> , and Susan from <i>Doctor Who</i> , are teenagers/children.	Teenagers/children are among the main characters
One of the main locations in <i>Doctor Who</i> is Susan's school.	Recurring locations such as a school and home domestic, personal, ordinary and everyday events

Q5. [6]

- *Doctor Who* fits into the sub genre of science fiction called b) **action sci-fi**. The fiction but usually involves fights, chases or dramatic escapes in each episode.
- *His Dark Materials* is a more c) **modern** family drama. We can see this with the fact that it is a family drama, such as the fact that it uses e) **child** protagonists.
- *His Dark Materials* is also f) **an adaptation**.

Q6. [7]

- cultural
- contexts
- repetition
- recognise
- variation
- codes and conventions
- interested

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Q7. 1 mark for each, such as: [2]

Doctor Who:

- The first science fiction programme aimed at a family audience
- Advanced technology / special effects for the time

His Dark Materials:

- Distributed in USA and UK – Bad Wolf and HBO co-funded with BBC
- Adaptation of popular modern novel
- Unconventional representations of girls/mothers/witches
- Criticism of religion
- More diverse cast and characters

Q8. [10]

Each bullet point below may be worth 2 or 3 marks if it has a thorough explanation / analysis of *Doctor Who* and *His Dark Materials*. Answers should include some justified comparison of science fiction has or has not stayed the same. Answers may include points such as:

Stayed the same:

- Uses repetition of generic conventions so audience can recognise and relate to the product
- Repetition of key conventions makes it easier to market a product and easier for the audience to accept
- In both *Doctor Who* and *His Dark Materials*, there is repetition of the following:
 - The lead character has special powers/knowledge
 - Narratives involve travel to other times/worlds
 - The use of generic conventions, such as aliens or fictional creatures (daemons)
 - Iconic signifiers, such as advanced technology

Changed:

- Uses variation to entice an audience to watch, to offer novelty and excitement, to make the product more interesting
- *Doctor Who:*
 - The main character, the Doctor, is not clearly a hero or a villain
 - It was one of the first science fictions programmes aimed at a family audience
 - It used advanced technology and special effects for the time
 - It included a teen girl as one of the main characters
- *His Dark Materials* offered some key variations:
 - The protagonists are children
 - The characters are more diverse
 - The representations of some key ideas – motherhood, femininity – are updated
 - The narrative is more complicated
- *His Dark Materials* draws on the popularity and success of other popular adaptations such as *The Hunger Games*. This success leads other products in the genre to try to replicate its success
- Programmes need to update to stay current, such as updated settings, locations, characters

Conclusions

- Answers may conclude that science fiction has or hasn't changed significantly, but it has evolved and been introduced due to changes in the social, cultural and political context

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Topic Test 2: Media Language

Q1. Answers such as: [1]

- A camera shot which establishes/shows the general location/setting of the scene
- A very long shot of the outside of a building or a city, used to establish the genre

Q2. [9]

Audio codes

- dialogue
- non-diegetic sound
- soundtrack

Visual codes

- costumes
- props
- setting

Technical codes

- high angle
- Editing
- cross-cutting

Q3. [3]

Propp suggested that most stories have **completeness** to *be a bit similar / the same* and also usually has a sidekick known as a **comic relief** helper. The conflict between the hero and the villain drives the narrative.

Q4. [4]

- Older science fiction and fantasy series such as *Doctor Who* used to have a **single** narrative, which was focused on solving one main **enigma**.
- Science fiction and fantasy series today often have a **multistranded** narrative, which is spread over episodes and series.
- Science fiction episodes usually begin with **enigmas** and end with **closure**.

Q5. [10]

Stage 1: Exposition – A girl goes to Coal Hill School.

Stage 2: Disruption – The girl seems to have unusual knowledge.

Stage 3: Complication – The teachers find out that the girl lives in a junkyard.

Stage 4: Climax – The teachers are kidnapped.

Stage 5: Resolution – The man and the girl are revealed to be time travellers.

Q6. 1 mark for each drama, such as: [2]

Doctor Who

The opposition between:

- Parent/grandparent and child
- Alien and human
- Teacher and pupil
- Ignorance and knowledge

His Dark Materials

The opposition between:

- Boy and girl
- Human and daemon
- Our dimension and an alternative dimension
- Parent and child

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- Q7. a) Connotations of the Doctor's facial expression:
Angry but also smiling slightly, suggesting he feels superior, or that he has won, or that he is defiant and will not stand down
- b) Connotations of the setting:
Advanced technology, strange and futuristic, suggests Ian and Barbara are out of their depth, or that the Doctor and Susan are not ordinary people (maybe aliens and/or time travellers)
- c) What camera shot is used, and why?
Close-up to show emotion / Two-shot to show the relationship between the Doctor and Ian
- d) How do visual codes create tension in this scene?
Close-up shows the strong emotions, and positioning the characters head to head suggests a stand-off or even violence



- Q8. [4]
- a) Connotations of Lyra's facial expressions:
Anger, threat, defiance, defensiveness
- b) Connotations of the over-the-shoulder camera angle
The audience is part of the action; we are spectating/eavesdropping on the action
- c) What camera shot is used, and why?
A shoulder height medium shot, which puts the audience on Lyra's level, making them feel like they are part of the action and allows them to see the expressions on both of the main characters' faces
- d) How do visual codes create tension in this scene?
The contrast of Lyra's angry expression and Will's curious expression makes the audience wonder what will happen. The contrasting clothing of Will and Lyra (dark and light) suggests they are from different backgrounds and upbringing. The conflict between Lyra and the other girl creates tension as they are fighting against each other.

- Q9. [8]
- Answers may refer to Propp's character roles, to Todorov's narrative structure, or to both. Any one of the bullet point below may be worth 2 or 3 marks if there is enough explanation / are explained in the answer. Answers may include points such as:
- Answers may discuss various aspects of enigma and closure, and how this is used to engage audiences, such as:
 - The enigma of where Lyra's father is
 - The enigma of what will happen to the witches
 - The enigma of the shadowy form that follows Will at the end of the episode
 - The closure of knowing who the girls are that Lyra and Will chase through the city
 - The enigma of the message from the alethiometer about Will
 - Answers may discuss various aspects of Propp's character roles and the notion of the hero's quest, such as:
 - Lyra as the hero – the main character who is on the side of moral good
 - Mrs Coulter, or the shadowy form as the villain – is usually evil; tries to stop Lyra
 - Will or Pan as the helpers – may act as a sidekick or support to the hero
 - Various suggestions may be made as to what other roles such as the witch or the alethiometer
 - Answers may discuss various aspects of Todorov's narrative theory and how far and how often the cycle of change and resolution may be applied. Answers may consider whether the episodic nature of the series tends to end with some form of resolution and that full resolution is not achieved.
 - Answers may discuss the episode in terms of narrative arcs across the series, in which Lyra is the protagonist (Lyra) and the antagonists

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Topic Test 3: Representation

- Q1. [5]
- 4
 - 1
 - 5
 - 2
 - 3
- Q2. [5]
- Doctor Who*
 - Both
 - Doctor Who*
 - Both
 - His Dark Materials*
- Q3. [2]
- True
 - False
- Q4. [4]
- stereotypes
 - protagonists
 - countertypes
 - verisimilitude
- Q5. Answers such as the following, with alternative answers accepted if they are appropriate
- Mrs Coulter's stance, props and position
Women seem hostile and sneaky because:
 - Mrs Coulter is behind the witch, making her actions seem secretive
 - Mrs Coulter is holding a piece of equipment to torture the witch
 - Mrs Coulter's facial expression suggests that she is about to do something
 - Mrs Coulter's costume, hair and make-up
Women seem feminine, and conscious of their appearance:
 - Mrs Coulter's hair is carefully done, and neat
 - Mrs Coulter's dress is very bright and stylish, and her make-up is fashionable
 - The costume and expression of the witch
Women sometimes seem weak and vulnerable:
 - The witch is wearing a dirty costume and has a messy face, suggesting she is unable to take care of her appearance
 - The witch's facial expression is sad and hopeless
 - The witch's costume barely covers her shoulders, making her seem vulnerable
- Q6. a) [1]

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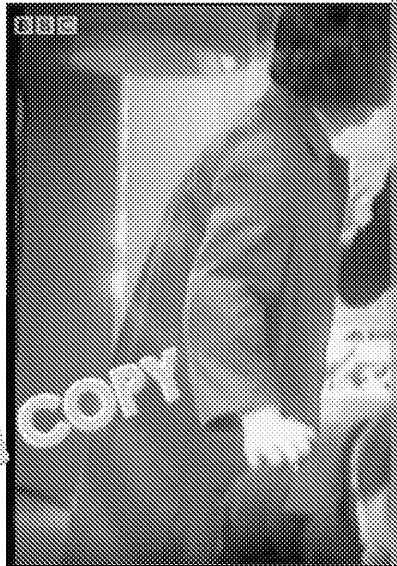
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Q7. Two points for each area such as the following, with alternative answers accepted if

Patriarchal:

- The Doctor is in the centre of the shot and seems to be the dominant or most important person
- The Doctor has power over the other characters
- Barbara does not physically fight but uses words instead
- Both Barbara and Susan appear nurturing and caring as they attend to Ian



Feminist:

- There is an equal number of male characters and female characters
- Male characters and female characters have equal important roles in the narrative
- Barbara is standing up to the Doctor and challenging him
- Ian has fallen to the floor while Barbara remains standing

Q8. 2 marks for each point that is briefly explained. Answers such as: [8]

Representations of gender (e.g. men and women): [2]

- As a mother, Mrs Coulter should be caring and nurturing, so the torture scene is
- As a woman, Mrs Coulter cares about her appearance, wearing very feminine and
- Lyra represents female characters as not bothered about their appearance or to shower/wash
- Will represents men as being nurturing and caring, cooking for Lyra and looking

Representations of children (e.g. Will, Angelica and Paola): [2]

- Will presents children as responsible, as he feeds and organises himself and Lyra, di
- Lyra presents children as independent and brave, as she embarks on her quest w
- Will's help

Representations of people of colour (e.g. Will Parry, Ruta Skadi): [2]

- Will presents people of colour positively as he is intelligent, caring, loyal and br
- The friendship group has diverse ethnicities within it
- Friendships and relationships between people of different ethnicities are repre
- however, the main character and all of her family members are white
- People of colour are under-represented in the episode as a whole
- One of the witches is in a position of power, showing that people of colour can

Representations of parents (e.g. Mrs Coulter as Lyra's mother, and Lord Asriel as Lyra's

- Mrs Coulter shows care for her child when she stays in the same dimension as
- Mrs Coulter, even though mothers are usually presented as caring, shows a de
- her role in Lyra's life is not common for a teenager
- Mrs Coulter's evil side is not a perfect representation of parents
- Lord Asriel presents himself as absent, as he is not present in the episode as Lyra

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Q9. Each bullet point below may be worth 2 or 3 marks if there is enough explanation / *Doctor Who* and *His Dark Materials*. Answers should also include some justified conclusions. Representations are influenced by contexts. Answers may include points such as: [10]

Doctor Who:

- *Doctor Who* has an all-white cast, which was seen as 'normal' at the time; non-white people were under-represented (ignored) or misrepresented (often cast as stereotypes, e.g. aliens).
- *Doctor Who* represented older, white, heterosexual men as powerful in society. The programme was set in, and it is only recently that Doctors in the programme have been played by a woman.
- *Doctor Who* was influenced by the social context. It was produced before the 1970s, when women began to demand more equality. *Doctor Who* represents men as powerful in many episodes.
- Susan seems more childish than April and has little control over her own life. She is like her grandfather, reflecting the views and ideas about teenagers at the time.
- In 1963, there were only two TV channels, so programmes had to appeal to a broad audience. This meant that the representations were conservative and traditional.

His Dark Materials:

- The representation of ethnicity has been influenced by changes in the social context towards greater integration and equality. This is shown in casting a range of non-white actors.
- The representation of gender has been influenced by changes in the social context. Lyra is a female, and is presented as a brave, independent leader.
- Through Lyra, girls are shown as being unhygienic, not bothered by their appearance. In *Doctor Who*, girls do not have to follow society's expectations as feminine and perfect. This was different to girls shown in the first *Doctor Who*, showing how social values and views have changed over time.
- Representations of men have changed over time. In *His Dark Materials*, masculinity is shown through the father's absence and failure, to Will's supportive and nurturing personality. This reflects cultural contexts such as the 'new man', more attention given to male mental health.

Conclusions such as:

- On the whole, representations are influenced by the social and cultural contexts of the time, which are outdated now.
- Changes in technology and television industries have also influenced representations. There are now smaller, more niche audience groups.

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Topic Test 4: Industries

Q1. [5]

- a) public service broadcaster [1]
- b) the licence fee [1]
- c) selling programme formats to commercial producers
AND selling merchandise
AND selling programmes overseas [3]

Q2. [8]

	<i>His Dark Materials</i>	
In what year was it first broadcast?	2020	1963
On which channel was it first broadcast?	BBC One	BBC One
At what time was it first broadcast?	10pm	5.15pm
What is the age rating of the TVD?	12	12

Q3. [6]

- a) licensing
- b) royalties
- c) franchises
- d) commercial
- e) merchandise
- f) licence

Q4. [10]

TV channel

- Commissioning
- Funding
- Broadcasting
- Scheduling
- Distribution

Production company

- Writing
- Casting
- Directing
- Filming
- Editing

Q5. [6]

	<i>His Dark Materials</i>	<i>Doctor Who</i>
It starred some established actors		
It was broadcast in multiple countries		
It was initially broadcast on a digital channel	✓	
It started as an educational programme		✓
There is a lot of merchandise available		✓
It is available on streaming sites, such as Amazon Prime and HBO Max		

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Q6. Each bullet point below may be worth 2 or 3 marks if there is enough explanation / *Doctor Who* and *His Dark Materials*. Answers may include points such as: [10]

Doctor Who

Public service broadcasting:

- Made for the BBC – high status and well-funded by the licence fee, allowing for the time
- *Doctor Who* had educational content and purpose to help meet the BBC's remit
- In 1963, there were only two TV channels, so programmes had to appeal to a potentially half the population
- Shown on BBC One in the 'teatime' slot. Prime-time scheduling gives it a greater

Relevant contexts:

- In the 1960s, representations were largely of British, white, middle-class, able-bodied
- Men were often represented as dominant, and *Doctor Who* was quite progressive in central roles
- The episode reflects the growing youth culture / teen culture through Susan's stand up to authority figures
- Teachers are represented positively, as parental figures, and it did not seem unusual for a child to be in school
- The episode often reflects events in society at the time of production; for example, we initially seen as representing the Nazis, especially in the 1960s when WWII was still in many of the audience
- Colonialist attitudes were reflected in descriptions of other cultures as 'savage'

His Dark Materials

Public service broadcasting:

- The advent of satellite TV, digital TV, online TV and so on means there are many more ways of accessing TV. This means that many programmes can now aim at more complicated plots and characters, as audiences can rewatch, or pause, or missed as they are watching. The early *Doctor Who* appealed to a broad family audience, while *His Dark Materials* aims at a younger audience. Younger protagonists and a storyline focused on the meeting the interests of the demographic.
- Shown on BBC One during the 'prime-time' slot, and also available online to all
- *His Dark Materials* also shown in the USA at a slightly later time slot. When 'The Aired, HBO also aired the entire first series beforehand so that audiences could

Relevant contexts:

- The audience has much higher expectations of production values, which *His Dark Materials* uses of sophisticated CGI, recognisable actors, fast-paced editing and range of locations
- Audiences have much higher expectations in terms of how the BBC maintains its representations – *His Dark Materials* does much more to reflect the diversity of the world it presents gender, ethnicity, family and age.
- Narratives change in order to reflect changes in the social context, and teenage protagonists are more independent.
- *His Dark Materials* reflects the popularity of other successfully adapted books and film conventions.
- Narratives reflect changing social and political values, such as changing attitudes to motherhood, and men, masculinity and fatherhood.

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Topic Test 5: Audiences

Q1. c) [1]

Q2. d) [1]

Q3. [4]

	<i>Doctor Who</i>	
Who was the most famous actor?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> William Hartnell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ruth W Lin-Man
Name one programme the actor had appeared in before	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Carry On Sergeant</i> <i>The Firm</i> <i>Sanie</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Luther</i> <i>Hamilton</i>

Q4. Any two answers such as: [2]

- They have an established fan base
- They can bring their fan base to the new programme, which helps audience figures
- They are well-known and well recognised, which helps with marketing
- Their previous success acts as a guarantee of quality
- Their previous success helps to reassure producers that they will be good actors
- Having a well-known actor interested in a project can help with the commission

Q5. [5]

- Many programmes target a **mainstream** audience in order to get higher viewing figures
- BBC One usually schedules *Doctor Who* early on a **Saturday** evening to reach its target audience
- Doctor Who* gained good viewing figures, with audiences of around **4 million** for the chosen episode
- His Dark Materials* was broadcast in **autumn** because at this time of the year people are more likely to be watching TV in the evenings and might be looking for entertainment.
- The chosen episode of *His Dark Materials* gained audiences of around **4.4 million**

Q6. 1 mark for the three boxes below ticked; 1 further mark for each appropriate/valid explanation

- Mixed male and female audience because** the programme includes a lot of stories that challenge stereotypes / the programme is feminist in its representation of gender
- Teens because** this is the age group of the protagonists / the teenage characters are central to the narrative
- Diverse mixed audience because** the programme includes a lot of people of colour and the programme includes positive representations of people of colour as well as white people

Q7. [4]

- reception
- dominant
- negotiated
- oppositional

Q8. 1 mark for each correct selection; 1 further mark for each appropriate/valid explanation

- Reformers like to be socially responsible and change the world for the better; they may watch *His Dark Materials* because it has a diverse cast and shows some women in positions of power
- Explorers like to try out new things and new technologies; they may watch *His Dark Materials* because it is full of new ideas and technologies, uses a lot of conventional narrative structures and sophisticated special effects, and is available online in a range of formats
- Strugglers are financially stable, and they like established and reliable brands; they may watch *Doctor Who* as **both** because they are both part of a well-established franchise / both star established actors
- Mainstreamers are happy to do what is popular and what everyone else does; they may watch *Doctor Who* as **both** *Doctor Who* and *His Dark Materials* because they are popular and even *Doctor Who* is a very established brand, and *His Dark Materials* was on during the prime time slot
- Strugglers find everyday life difficult and may have financial problems; they may watch *His Dark Materials* because they are available on free-to-view channels / they offer an escape from their own lives because they can't relate to the characters and narratives shown.

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Q9. 1 mark for a valid way for each aspect of Blumler and Katz's uses and gratifications of

Information

- May provide information about new technologies, space travel, etc.
- May provide more information about the world of the franchise/programme

Entertainment

- Provides entertainment through the strong narratives / use of suspense / enigmas

Companionship

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

Identity

- Audiences can relate to certain characters and more to their own concerns and
- Audiences may view some characters as aspirational or role models
- Audiences may base aspects of their 'ideal self' on certain characters
- Audiences may self-identify as fans of the programme, and may perhaps buy merchandise

Q10. Each bullet point may be worth 2 or 3 marks if there is enough explanation / *Doctor Who* answers may include points such as: [8]

Target

- Characters reflect the age profile of families, with a younger daughter, two parents and a grandfather
- Narratives reflect the concerns of a demographic of teens, through Susan's difficult arguments with her parent figure and her inability to control her own life; this is reflected through care for and concern about the education and welfare of children
- The narratives reassure the viewers that humanity is central to the universe and not conquered
- Representations may appeal to the mainstream demographic as they reinforce ideas about what is dominant, and reinforce ideas about what it means to be British (with William Hartnell)
- William Hartnell had an existing profile and fan base to bring to *Doctor Who*

Reach

- It was broadcast on the BBC, which had a broad, mainstream demographic; this aspect targeted this demographic
- The first episode was broadcast on 23rd November 1963, with a delay of 80 seconds about the assassination of US President John F Kennedy. Because the first episode was delayed, it was repeated the following week, prior to Episode 2.
- There were two television trailers aired in the week before broadcast which emphasised the scientific nature of the programme and reached a wide mainstream audience
- *Radio Times* magazine, the main source of information about TV and radio, had a large circulation; this reached a broad, mainstream adult audience
- William Hartnell led a radio trailer on the BBC's Light Programme (later to become BBC Radio 2) which was typically listened to by younger people
- *The Today Programme* on the BBC Home Service (later to become BBC Radio 4) had a large audience; 'space music' from the new series, which would have been heard mainly by an older audience

Maintain

- The first episode attracted 4 million viewers
- Story arcs across the series and the use of cliffhangers at the end of episodes
- Over time, the focus moved from education to entertainment in order to maintain audience interest
- Audiences increased when the Daleks were introduced in the subsequent series

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Topic Test 6: 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. [4]

References to popular music or fashion Cultural
In 1961, Yuri Gagarin was the first person to go into space Historical
Anti-discrimination laws passed Political
Changes in beliefs about the role of women Social

Q3. [8]

Code and content	Repetition
a) Mainly white cast	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Recalling events, such as a spaceship	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) A world of usually savages or villains	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Enigmas, suspense and tension	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Main characters are male	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Iconic signifiers, such as advanced technology and weapons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Action sequences	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Lead character has special powers/knowledge	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Q4. [6]

Increased number of channels 3. b.
Digital broadcast and storage of television programmes 2. a.
Young Adult films and books, such as *The Hunger Games*, proved very popular 1. c.

Q5. [3]

BBC One is a **public service** / ~~a commercial~~ / ~~both a public service and a commercial~~
The BBC has to follow a remit to make programmes that appeal to **mainstream** / ~~minority~~ / ~~mainstream~~ audiences.
The BBC tries to make programmes which **serve the community** / ~~make a profit~~.

Q6. Answers such as: [3]

- **Interest in space travel:** the TARDIS is a spaceship / the characters travel in space
- **Patriarchy:** the most powerful characters are male / Ian is patronising towards Clara
- **Lack of diversity:** all the characters are white

Q7. Answers such as: [4]

- **Feminism:** the main character is female / Lyra and Tamaris Coulter are represented as strong female characters not always expected to take the more nurturing roles
- **Teenagers are more independent:** Lyra acts without the knowledge or permission of her parents, with her helpers being other teenage characters
- **Ethnic diversity:** there are people of colour in the cast / there are characters of different ages
- **Audiences can watch back episodes or recap plots,** so narratives and character arcs are easier to follow; episode of *His Dark Materials* is available on BBC iPlayer; there is also a complex wiki for audiences to check information or catch up on arcs and themes. There is a fan wiki for audiences to check information or catch up on arcs and themes.

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Q8. Any four valid reasons such as: [4]

- Social contexts and values have changed so narratives and dialogue that patronise or seem childish seem offensive now
- Narratives reflect outdated values such as when the teachers follow Susan home in the TARDIS, which is not practice today
- Characters represent a narrow section of society – white, middle-class, heterosexual – not reflecting the current social context of a diverse society
- Intertextual references to popular culture are not relevant or recognisable to modern audiences, such as popular music and fashions of the time or the technology they use, such as mobile phones
- Settings seem old-fashioned and outdated and don't reflect the current context
- The 'advanced technology' of the TARDIS looks outdated now
- The visual and sound effects seem old-fashioned and unconvincing
- The pace of the editing seems slow

Q9. Each bullet point below may be worth 2 marks. There is enough explanation / analysis to suggest that programmes are or are not influenced by contexts. Give a balanced view, and make your points such as: [12]

Points suggesting science fiction programmes are influenced by contexts:

- The themes and views represented in *Doctor Who* reflect the 1960s, such as the heterosexual cast, and the way women are patronised
- *Doctor Who* was influenced by the historical contexts of the time, such as the first person to journey into space (Yuri Gagarin being the first person to journey into space in 1961) and the ongoing Cold War
- *His Dark Materials* is influenced by current views and values such as:
 - The representation of ethnicity has been influenced by changes in the social context, which moves towards greater integration and equality. This is shown in casting a diverse range of actors in the series.
 - The representation of gender in *His Dark Materials* has been influenced by current views, for example, the main protagonist (Lyra) and main antagonist (Mrs Coulter) are both female
 - The representation of Lyra is influenced by social contexts such as moves towards greater equality for female characters being represented as imperfect and not preoccupied with being obedient.
- Science fiction and fantasy programmes such as *His Dark Materials* are influenced by the increased interest in adaptations of popular books.
- The industrial and technological context also influences science fiction and fantasy programmes
 - the distribution of *His Dark Materials* in the USA as well as the UK means that the programme includes characters and actors included to connect with a more global audience.
 - advances in technology make special effects more elaborate and convincing

Points suggesting science fiction programmes are not influenced by contexts:

- The economic context makes it easier for science fiction and fantasy programmes to be successful as they follow the generic conventions
- Science fiction programmes are also more likely to be successful with audiences if they follow the generic conventions
- Repeated elements seen in both *Doctor Who* and *His Dark Materials*:
 - Main characters are often seen as powerful, iconic figures, with powerful personalities
 - Characters travel in space/time
 - Locations such as other worlds are featured
 - Advanced technology / weaponry is used
 - Action sequences are used to make episodes more exciting
 - Continuing storylines are explored

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