



# Learning Grids for GCSE Eduqas Media Studies

Component 2A: Crime Dramas

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# Teacher's Introduction

These learning grids are a tool designed to help you deliver the **GCSE (9–1) Eduqas Media Studies (C680QS)** course with specific focus on **Component 2 Understanding Media Forms and Products, Section A: Television – Crime Drama**. This resource focuses on the set products for the exams from **2027**: *Trigger Point* and *The Sweeney*.

Pages from this resource which are relevant to the set products for assessment in **2026** (*Luther*) can be found in the appendix at the end of the resource.

This resource covers all of the content outlined in the specification, presented in specification order. The concept is that your students are assigned a topic to learn about as part of your scheme of work (or by giving them a set of pages to read from a textbook), possibly for homework, and then asked to complete the learning grid which matches that section of the specification. These activities are particularly useful for your weaker students as they encourage students to *read* their notes or the textbook pages in order to find the required answers.

Each learning grid is cross-referenced against a popular GCSE Eduqas textbook\*: *WJEC/Eduqas GCSE Media Studies* by Hayley Sheard (ISBN 978-1-911208-48-8), as well as ZigZag Education Teaching Packs.

**\*Note:** *The GCSE Eduqas textbook has not yet been updated with the new Trigger Point set product. Therefore, the page numbers referenced from the Eduqas textbook within this resource cover all aspects of the Crime Dramas topic, including old set products. You may want to review any pages referenced from the textbook before using them with your class to ensure their suitability.*

Completed grids are provided so that your students' answers can be self- or peer-marked or checked. The answers may also be useful to hand out to students during their revision to assist with any unanswered questions, or to ensure that students are revising from the correct answers.

Each grid could be used to support revision activities in the classroom and to help prepare students for an end of topic test. A variety of questions have been posed for each specification topic; some questions are basic, requiring students to recall factual knowledge about them, while others are more complex, asking students for a more in-depth response while making links to the conceptual framework. Questions could be used as a short starter activity or developed into a longer classroom or homework task, which could ask students to work in pairs or small groups to develop writing skills. Questions could be used throughout the year to check students' progress, which will help to reinforce the learning, allowing students the chance to recall what they have learned in previous lessons.

Advantages of using these learning grids are:

- Some students will find this method of studying of great value, particularly if they find it difficult to absorb information in class – the learning grids are perfect for consolidation.
- Resulting grids contain a bullet-point summary that may be useful for revision.
- They are an easy-to-set, yet valuable, homework.
- They are a useful catch-up tool to help students who have missed a lesson.
- They can be used as a basis for cover lessons as they require minimal preparation and minimal interaction from the cover teacher.
- They are an independent learning resource.

October 2025

This edition supports students using the *WJEC/Eduqas GCSE Media Studies* textbook by Hayley Sheard (Illuminate Publishing, ISBN 978-1-911208-48-8).

ZigZag Education is not affiliated with Illuminate Publishing, WJEC or Eduqas.

## **Selected Question and Answer Pages**

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For demonstration only, the sample answer pages immediately follow their corresponding question pages

1

## The Sweeney: Topic 1: Media Language

The various forms of media language used to create and communicate meanings: <i>The Sweeney</i>	Questions	
	<p>Using the extract you have studied, discuss the significance of a specific camera angle or shot composition in conveying meaning.</p> 	<p>Analyse the use of editing techniques in the extract you have studied. How does the pacing and sequencing of shots contribute to the meaning?</p> 

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The Sweeney: Topic 1: Media Language

	Questions	
<p>The various forms of media language used to create and communicate meanings: <i>The Sweeney</i></p>	<p>Using the extract you have studied, discuss the significance of a specific camera angle or shot composition in conveying meaning.</p>	<p>How angle shot may be used to portray a character's perception of their role.</p>
	<p>Analyse the use of editing techniques in the extract you have studied. How does the pacing and sequencing of shots contribute to the meaning?</p>	<p>Example answer could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fast-paced editing:</b> <i>The Sweeney</i> is known for the intensity of police work. Quick cuts between scenes of adrenaline, immersing the audience in the action and keeps the audience engaged and heightens the tension.</li> <li>• <b>Montage sequences:</b> Montage sequences are used to show scenes or moments of preparation for a raid or action, showing the progression of events through a series of shots and scenes, montages effectively convey the intensity of police work.</li> <li>• <b>Cross-cutting:</b> Cross-cutting is used during the investigation or storylines. By cutting back and forth between scenes of tension and suspense as the audience anticipates the next technical aspects complexity to the storytelling, actions occur simultaneously.</li> <li>• <b>Match cuts:</b> Match cuts are used to establish continuity between matching elements such as shape, movement or sound. In <i>The Sweeney</i>, match cuts are used for transition between disparate images. In <i>The Sweeney</i>, match cuts are used to reinforce the interconnectedness of the characters or actions, reinforcing the interconnectedness of the narrative.</li> <li>• <b>Temporal distortion:</b> The editing in <i>The Sweeney</i> uses techniques such as slow motion or time-lapse, to manipulate the temporal rhythm of the narrative, temporal distortion is used to emphasise dramatic moments, heighten the temporal rhythm of the narrative, temporal distortion is used to compress an episode while emphasising key moments.</li> </ul>

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**Processes of selection, combination and exclusion: *The Sweeney***

Questions	
<p>Using the extract you have studied, consider how the use of camera shots contributes to the audience's point of view.</p>	Wide shots
	Medium shots
	Close-up shots
	Over-the-shoulder shots
	Point-of-view shots
	Tracking shots

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**Processes of selection, combination and exclusion: *The Sweeney***

Questions		
<p>Using the extract you have studied, consider how the use of camera shots contributes to the audience's point of view.</p>		Example answer could include:
	Wide shots	Wide shots establish the setting and provide views of urban landscapes, crime scenes, characters' environment and the setting, which emphasise isolation or vulnerability.
	Medium shots	Medium shots focus on characters' expressions and body language, medium shots show scenes or interactions between characters, highlighting their intentions of the characters. Medium shots provide visual information about the characters.
	Close-up shots	Close-up shots zoom in on specific details of a crucial object. By capturing small details, close-up shots have a particularly effective impact of a scene and draw the audience's attention, particularly effective for conveying suspense during tense moments.
	Over-the-shoulder shots	Over-the-shoulder shots position the camera behind one character, allowing the audience to observe the scene from their perspective. Over-the-shoulder shots are often used to create a sense of proximity and involvement in the scene.
	Point-of-view shots	Point-of-view shots show the scene from the character's perspective, allowing the audience to see what they see. This creates a sense of experience, heightening tension or suspense. Point-of-view shots can also create empathy for a character, immersing them directly in the scene.
	Tracking shots	Tracking shots involve the camera moving along with the subject, creating a sense of urgency and excitement. Tracking shots are used to follow elements of a scene or to build suspense in dangerous situations.

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**Technological advancements: *The Sweeney***

Questions	
<p>Explore how technological advancements at the time (1975) influenced <i>The Sweeney</i>.</p>	Camera equipment
	Location shooting
	Telecommunications
	Special effects
	Editing and post-production



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## Technological advancements: The Sweeney

Questions	
<p>Explore how technological advancements at the time (1975) influenced <i>The Sweeney</i>.</p>	<p>Answer may include:</p>
	<p><b>Camera equipment</b></p> <p>During the 1970s, advanced camera equipment allowed for more versatile film-making. This enabled the show to capture dynamic and intense scenes. This allowed the show to convey a sense of urgency and excitement.</p>
	<p><b>Location shooting</b></p> <p><i>The Sweeney</i> was known for its location shooting. The use of portable cameras and film on location, adding realism to the show. This was particularly evident in crime and law enforcement scenes.</p>
	<p><b>Telecommunications</b></p> <p>The 1970s saw significant advancements in telecommunications, particularly in the realm of mobile phones. The show incorporated these technologies, using two-way radios, mobile phones, and satellite systems to coordinate the actions of the characters, adding authenticity to the show.</p>
	<p><b>Special effects</b></p> <p>While not as sophisticated as modern special effects, the use of practical effects allowed <i>The Sweeney</i> to create realistic and memorable stunts. Practical effects were typical of the show, enhancing the storytelling.</p>
<p><b>Editing and post-production</b></p> <p>Advancements in editing and post-production techniques such as the use of jump cuts and the availability of magnetic tape allowed for more complex editing. This enabled the show to assemble and refine its narrative more effectively.</p>	

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	Questions		Code/Convention	Contribution
Genre: <i>The Sweeney</i>	 <p>How do the following codes and conventions of crime dramas appear in <i>The Sweeney</i>?</p> <p><i>(Continued overleaf)</i></p>		The use of dark lighting, intense music, and handheld camera work	
				

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Genre: *The Sweeney*

Questions	Code/Convention	Contribution
<p> <b>INSPECTION COPY</b></p> <p>How do the following codes and conventions of crime dramas appear in <i>The Sweeney</i>?</p> <p><i>(Continued overleaf)</i></p> <p> <b>INSPECTION COPY</b></p>	<p>The use of dark lighting, intense music, and handheld camera work</p>	<p><b>Dark lighting:</b> The use of dark lighting for dramatic purposes. Firstly, it creates a gritty and crime-ridden urban atmosphere. Secondly, dark lighting intensifies the sense of danger and suspense in the high-stakes world of <i>The Sweeney</i>. It also helps to create ambiguity, adding to the mystery of the cases.</p> <p><b>Intense music:</b> The use of intense music, including heavy beats and ominous melodies, is a key feature of <i>The Sweeney</i>. Intense music is used during moments of heightened drama, such as chases and confrontations, to build tension and anticipation, and to reflect the emotional investment in the police work and the adrenaline of the job.</p> <p><b>Handheld camera work:</b> The use of handheld camera work in <i>The Sweeney</i> is a key convention that contributes to the show's documentary-style realism. The show's creators are able to immerse the viewer in the experience of being in the heart of the action, creating a sense of intimacy and authenticity. The shaky and dynamic camera work makes the characters as they navigate the streets, enhancing the sense of urgency and excitement.</p>

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## **Additional Selected Question Pages**

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Trigger Point: Topic 1: Media Language

<b>Camera techniques and visual style: Trigger Point</b>	<b>Questions</b>		Close-up s (Shot 1: 03)
	 <p>Why are close-ups and handheld shots used in <i>Trigger Point</i>? What is their effect?</p> <p>Analyse how the shots listed from the set episode are used and explore their impact on the audience.</p> 	Use	
		Effect	
		Analysis of shots:	

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**Camera techniques and visual style: Trigger Point**

Questions			
 <p>Explain the use and effect of wide shots and tight framing to establish the setting and mood.</p> <p>What is the effect of the camera technique in the example given?</p>	Use		Wide
	Effect		
	Example 41:48		

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Camera techniques and visual style: Trigger Point

Questions



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How does the use of close-ups and wide shots impact the audience's emotions during the opening sequence?



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**Camera techniques and visual style: Trigger Point**

Questions			
 <p>What is the effect of the camera movements listed in the table to the right?</p> <p>How do camera movements build suspense in high-tension scenes such as the example sequence listed?</p> 	Type of camera movement		
	Handheld		
	Slow-tracking		
	Quick cuts		

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	Questions	
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>Camera techniques and visual style: Trigger Point</b></p>	<p>How does low-key lighting create suspense or danger from the lighting?</p> 	
	<p>How does the set episode's colour palette create a gritty, serious tone? Discuss the scene where DCI Thom Youngblood sits on the pressure plate (34:23–36:00).</p> 	

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