Film Studies Revision Guidance

Sequence Analysis need to be done for all the films: Vertigo, Blade Runner, Captain Fantastic, This is England, Trainspotting and Pan’s Labyrinth.

As discussed to watch the opening sequences and closing sequences of each film.

To make detailed notes on the sequences in response to the following aspects of film form:

1. Mise-en-scene
2. Cinematography
3. Editing
4. Sound
5. Performance

Use the following questions to help you:

Mise-en-scene

This is a French term meaning ‘everything in the frame’, this includes the arrangement and design of props, costume, performance, special effects and setting.

An analysis of the style chosen for these elements of mise-en-scene is a very rich area to discover meaning.

Settings

You should consider who does the space ‘belong’ to? And what does it say about them? When exploring characters' personal spaces such as their room or their home, it is an extension of their character, what does it tell us about their hopes, dreams and fears?

Spaces are designed to create meaning and are an extension of the directors’ aesthetic, but we also need to consider HOW they have been shot, what angles and filters have been used?

And what could that imply about the status of that place and the people within it?

Props- These are another aesthetic design feature that can be considered as an extension of character, what can they represent about them?

Cinematography

* Identify how the camerawork has been used: Unusual angles/ shots? What is being emphasised through the choice of shots- do you get a fragmented view of the city? Why do you think this is? Are their establishing shots that you notice? Are there any key characters/ objects that are being emphasised as a result of the choice of shots and angles? Which characters/ objects receive the most close- ups?
* Camera movement- Is the camera-work kinetic (tilts, pans, dollies and cranes)? what do you notice about the camera movement? Handheld camera work used?
* Is energy created through the camerawork and/ or editing?
* Are lighting and colour used to create mood/ and or interest?
* Do you notice anything interesting in the framing and/ or composition of the shots?

Editing

* How does the editing create meaning and rhythm?
* Does the sequence use mostly traditional continuity editing?
* Are there any distinctive/ unusual cuts such as jump cuts? Other cuts that draw attention to themselves? Why do you think they have been used?
* Has the film been slowed down and/ or sped up at any point?
* Did you notice any of the common techniques, such as establishing shots at the start, master angle, eyeline match or shot- reverse- shot?
* Does the editor use any dissolves, wipes or other transition techniques?
* Are there more cuts in some parts of the sequence than others?
* Is there crosscutting between different locations?

In each of the above draw conclusions as to how the above create meanings for the viewer

Sound

* What are the main sources of sound in the sequence?
* Is the sound diegetic, non diegetic, synchronous, asynchronous?
* Is there any music? Is so what does it add to the sequence?
* Are particular diegetic sounds used to enhance the experience of the audience?
* Are any sounds exaggerated or processed in any way?
* Are any sounds synchronised with edits or action?
* What does dialogue add to the sequence?