

Y11 Students will be taking a PPE in February for Component 1 only so should prioritise those topics for revision.

GCSE MEDIA STUDIES PERSONAL LEARNING CHECKLIST (Assessed 2026)

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK	<p>Media Language: how media forms, codes and conventions communicate meanings.</p> <p>Representation: how the media portray events, issues, individuals and social groups (gender/age/ethnicity).</p> <p>Industries: how the processes of production, distribution and circulation affect forms and platforms.</p> <p>Audiences: how media forms target, reach and address audiences; how audiences interpret and respond.</p> <p>Contexts: how factors outside of the product influence meanings (historical, social, cultural, political)</p>					
Component 1: Exploring the Media (worth 40% of the GCSE qualification)						
Assessment: 1 hour 30 minutes written examination assessing media language and representation .						
Section A: Exploring Media Language and Representation (45 marks)		Section B: Understanding Media Forms & Products (35 marks)				
Two of the following forms: magazine front covers, film posters, newspaper front pages and print adverts.		Media contexts and two of the following forms: advertising, marketing, film, newspapers, radio.				
Set Products:	Exam Content:	Set Products	Exam Content			
Vogue (July, 2021) – magazine cover	Question 1 is worth 15 marks and on media language in relation to one set product (and possibly contexts)	The Sun (one complete edition) and selected pages (including the homepage) from https://www.thesun.co.uk/	Question 3 will be a stepped question on media industries in relation to newspapers, radio, film or video games.			
GQ (August 2019) – Raheem Sterling magazine cover	Question 2 is worth 30 marks. Part (a) is based on media contexts . Part (b) is a comparative essay on representation in one set product and one unseen product .	The Archers (one episode) + selected pages (including the homepage) from the official website	Question 4 will be a stepped question on audiences in relation to newspapers, radio or video games.			
The Man with the Golden Gun (1974) film poster		Fortnite (2017)				
No Time to Die (2021) film poster		Extracts from the game, homepage + two pages from the website				
The Guardian (18 Jan 2022)						
Cummings accuses PM						
The Sun (1 Jan 2022) Join our [covid jabs] Army						
Quality Street (1956)						
This Girl Can (2015)						

Component 2: Understanding Media Forms and Products (30%)

Assessment: 1 hour 30 minutes exam assessing media language , representation , industries and audiences .			
Section A: Television (30 marks)		Section B: Music (music videos and online media)	
Luther , Series 1, Episode 1 (2010, cert. 15) Original broadcaster: BBC Factsheet 1 & Factsheet 2	Q1) One question on media language or representation based on an extract from Luther to be viewed in the exam (contexts may be needed).	Taylor Swift , The Man (2020)	Q1) One question on media language or representation (reference to contexts may be required).
10-minute extract from The Sweeney , Series 1, Episode 1 (1975, cert. 15) Original broadcaster: ITV Factsheet 1 & Factsheet 2	Q2) One question on media industries , audiences or contexts .	Stormzy , Superheroes (2020)	Q2) One question on media industries , audiences or media contexts .

Component 3 (Non-Exam Assessment): Cross-Media Production (30%)

An individual project to make a media product for a target audience. Create a magazine aimed at a specific target audience. Students submit this work March 2026.