

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

Media Language: how media forms, codes and conventions communicate meanings.
Representation: how the media portray events, issues, individuals and social groups (gender/age/ethnicity).
Industries: how the processes of production, distribution and circulation affect forms and platforms.
Audiences: how media forms target, reach and address audiences; how audiences interpret and respond.
Contexts: how factors outside of the product influence meanings (historical, social, cultural, political)

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)

Two of the following forms: magazine front covers, film posters, newspaper front pages and print adverts.

Set Products:

[Vogue](#) (July, 2021) –magazine cover

[GQ](#) (August 2019) – Raheem Sterling magazine cover

[The Man with the Golden Gun](#) (1974) film poster

[No Time to Die](#) (2021) film poster

[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)

Exam Content:

Question 1 is worth 15 marks and on **media language** in relation to **one set product** (and possibly contexts)

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**.

Section B: Understanding Media Forms & Products (35 marks)

Media contexts and two of the following forms: advertising, marketing, film, newspapers, radio.

Set Products

[The Sun](#) (one complete edition) and selected pages (including the homepage) from <https://www.thesun.co.uk/>

[The Archers](#) (one episode) + selected pages (including the homepage) from the [official website](#)

[Fortnite](#) (2017)

Extracts from the game, homepage + two pages from the website

[No Time to Die](#), 2021 Industry focus only; film extracts, homepage + two pages from [007 website](#)

Exam Content

Question 3 will be a stepped question on **media industries** in relation to newspapers, radio, film or video games.

Question 4 will be a stepped question on **audiences** in relation to newspapers, radio or video games.

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)

[Luther](#), Series 1, Episode 1 (2010, cert. 15)
Original broadcaster: BBC
[Factsheet 1](#) & [Factsheet 2](#)

10-minute extract from [The Sweeney](#), Series 1, Episode 1 (1975, cert. 15)
Original broadcaster: ITV
[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).

Q2) One question on **media industries**, **audiences** or **contexts**.

Section B: Music (music videos and online media)

[Taylor Swift](#), [The Man](#) (2020)

[Stormzy](#), [Superheroes](#) (2020)

[TLC](#), [Waterfalls](#) (1995).

www.taylorswift.com
www.stormzy.com

Q1) One question on **media language** or **representation** (reference to **contexts** may be required).

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.