

WJEC AS/A LEVEL MEDIA STUDIES NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2026

Welcome back to a new year. We hope you had a great break!

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1. EXAMINER AND MODERATOR VACANCIES

Are you interested in enhancing your subject knowledge, getting extensive training on assessment and networking with experienced teachers and professionals, all at the same time as earning money? If so, you should consider becoming a GCSE, AS or A Level examiner or moderator.

We are now recruiting for the 2026 exam series; complete an online application today or contact media@wjec.co.uk with any questions.

2. CENTRE MAP

[Sign up to our Centre Map](#) to network and share good practice with other centres taking WJEC Media Studies in your area.

Once you have added your details to the centre map, you will be given the link to view the map. Please save this link so you can access the map in future. If you do lose the link or would like to amend any of your details, please contact media@wjec.co.uk.

3. EXEMPLAR MATERIALS

Exemplar from the 2025 series is available for all units for GCSE, AS and A Level on [Portal](#). This contains unannotated and annotated responses to selected questions and NEA from the 2025 assessment series.

[Portal](#) also includes a range of materials to support teaching, including materials from previous CPD events, past exam papers and mark schemes and non-exam assessment briefs.

4. AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

From the Summer 2026 examination series WJEC will no longer be despatching DVD materials to centres for assessments with audio-visual content. This material will be made available to centres as an MP3 or MP4 resource only, downloadable through our Portal site.

These files will be created as a single, complete file including pauses as per the outgoing DVD provision.

In line with previous years, these files will be available one working day prior to the assessment date to allow centres adequate time to set up equipment for the examination. Centres are not permitted to check the content of the recording.

5. RESOURCES

Free resources to support teachers in the delivery of AS and A Level Media Studies are available under 'Digital Resources' on the [GCSE](#) and [GCE](#) webpages, or on the [WJEC Resources Website](#).

We have developed a resource to support teachers in their assessment of work for both exam and NEA units in the GCE qualification, called the Amplified Assessment Grids. The Amplified Assessment grid is designed to provide more detailed description of each band of the mark scheme. It is not specific to any particular paper, but it describes typical characteristics of work in Bands 1-5 for each assessment objective. It is not an exhaustive description and does not represent a checklist of requirements that learners' work has to meet to be awarded a mark in each band; instead, it provides a general description of typical characteristics of work in each band to support teachers to understand how to assess work accurately. The Amplified Assessment Grids are available on the WJEC GCE website under '[Resources for Teachers](#)'.

A new blended learning resource has been created for Unit 3 Section B: *Magazines*. This, along with all of our free resources to support teachers delivering AS and A Level Media Studies, can be found on the [WJEC Resources Website](#).

We also have FAQs covering all aspects of the specification for AS/A Level. You can access the FAQs on the WJEC Media Studies webpage under 'Key Documents', or at the link below:

[WJEC AS/A Level Media Studies FAQs](#).

6. QUESTION LABELLING

Centres are advised that in 2026 and onwards, the labelling of questions in the Unit 1 examination will change, as detailed below:

- Question 1 will become Question 10
- Question 2a will become Question 21
- Question 2b will become Question 22
- Question 3a will become Question 31
- Question 3b will become Question 32

We have provided a demonstration of the new labelling using the 2024 question paper. This is available under 'Resources' on Portal, called '2680U10-1_Summer 2024 Question Paper new question labelling demonstration'.

7. UNIT 4: INVESTIGATIVE RESEARCH UPDATE

Centres are advised of an amendment to the definition of ‘comparable’ in relation to the WJEC GCE A2 Unit 4 Investigative Research task.

For the purposes of this task, a ‘comparable’ product is one that is similar to the cross-media production in terms of form, audience, genre and industry context. Learners must select a product from the industry context prescribed in the brief. For the television brief, learners can select products produced by E4 or by any channel owned by Channel 4, or products produced by BBC1 or any other BBC channel. This is an amendment to the previous definition, which said that the product must be from either E4 or BBC1.

Centres are reminded that, for the magazine brief, learners must not use the same product as that studied for Unit 3.

8. KEY DATES

Wednesday 1 st April 2026	AS/A Level - Internal Assessment Mark Input System (IAMIS) opens for Unit 2/4 NEA marks to be submitted.
Tuesday 12 th May (pm) 2026	WJEC AS Unit 1 Examination
Thursday 14 th May (pm) 2026	WJEC A Level Unit 3 Examination
Friday 15 th May 2026	AS/A Level NEA SUBMISSION DEADLINE Centres’ samples must be uploaded to IAMIS BY this date.
Thursday 13 th August 2026	AS/A Level Results Day

9. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) IN SCREEN EDUCATION CONFERENCE

We are delighted to announce that WJEC is working in partnership with [Ravensbourne University](#) to deliver an innovative joint conference on ‘AI In Screen Education’.

The conference will be held at Ravensbourne University, London from 31st March – 1st April 2026. For more information, visit our website: [Get involved with our Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) in Screen Education Conference](#).

10. CONTACT US

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Media Studies team at media@wjec.co.uk or 029 2240 4302.