

## **International Baccalaureate Film: Independent Study External Assessment**

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### **Quick Facts:**

- Worth 25% of your final mark
- Based on film theory and history but you should draw some connections to textual analysis
- Goal is for you to research cinematic tradition that is unfamiliar to your own culture
- Must produce a complete short documentary script on any aspect of film theory or film history
- Study of films must come from more than one country
- Audience age is 14 to 18 years old
- Topic should be discussed primarily in cinematic terms (not literary terms)
- At HL you must reference 4 films

The independent study must be presented in the form of a written script of the following three items:

- Rationale
- Script
- Annotated list of sources (bibliography and filmography)

The **rationale** must offer a brief explanation of the topic to be covered in no more than 100 words.

The **script** must be a side-by-side audio and visual documentary script. All descriptions of video and audio elements must be both detailed and specific. Scripts must be 12-15 pages for HL and must be 12-point courier font and single spacing.

The **annotated list of sources** should refer to all materials used in researching the topic and all materials used in the documentary (including films from which extracts will be shown and quotations from experts). Annotations should give the source of the reference and a comment on the relevance of the source must be included.

Once you have selected a general topic, here are some ideas for **digging deeper**:

Genre  
Theme  
Direction  
Use of sound  
Color  
Editing  
Lighting

The voice of the documentary must clearly be that of the student who is represented as the narrator. Students must ensure that any comments or ideas attributed to others are fully referenced.

You are encouraged to use a variety of **resources**:

Type of Resource	Examples
Text Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Examples of research by previous students</li> <li>- Abstracts of university theses</li> <li>- Textbooks</li> <li>- Magazines</li> <li>- Glossaries of key terms</li> <li>- Quotes by theorists</li> </ul>
Image Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Film posters</li> <li>- Movie stills</li> <li>- DVD covers</li> <li>- Film magazine covers</li> <li>- Moving image resources</li> </ul>
IT Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Online references</li> </ul>

The very first step is choosing an appropriate topic. I know that can be tough so think about your interests and go from there.

Steps in the Research Process	Issues to Consider
Define the topic:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is the bare outline of the area for discussion?</li> <li>- Break down the topic into sub-topics or key concepts.</li> <li>- Develop a broad overview of the topic by browsing sources.</li> <li>- Become aware of vocabulary associated with your topic.</li> </ul>
Locate and retrieve the information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Determine what type of information is needed- books, articles, current or archive information.</li> <li>- Ensure that you have all the information you need including the full citation of any references that are collected.</li> </ul>
Evaluate the information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish authority- who is the author and what is their credibility?</li> <li>- What is the purpose of the work?</li> <li>- Evaluate accuracy and relevance.</li> <li>- Recognize bias and point of view.</li> </ul>
Determine whether there is enough information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Look at the length and focus of your topic</li> <li>- What are the unanswered questions?</li> <li>- Does your topic represent only one point of view?</li> </ul>