

## **(Revised) International Baccalaureate Film Review Guidelines**

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**Assignment Rationale:** Film is part of its own history and tradition. Film is part of the social, economic and institutional forces that surround it. In order to explore the issues of film theory and history, students will review films using research and personal observation.

Instead of a “paper”, you will answer a series of questions regarding your selected film. You may choose to do this in an essay form or numbered questions.

Answer the following questions using complete sentences. Research outside of viewing the film in some instances is required.

1. What is the film’s genre (action, adventure, comedy, crime and gangster, documentary, drama, epics and historical, horror, musical, science fiction, war and anti-war, western)? Explain how the film fits with this genre.
2. Who is the director? Who does the film fit within the director’s other works?
  - a. Does it share narrative or thematic concerns with the director’s other work?
  - b. Does it share particular visual or technical elements with the director’s other work?
3. What is the film’s historical significance? Consider the film as a document of its times or as part of the history of film. Or what is the film’s sociocultural context? Consider the film as a work from a specific country, culture, audience or that it was made for a specific reason)
4. Analyze the cinematography and editing techniques used in the film. You must use 6-8 vocabulary words in this section. Provide the term, definition and an example of when it is used in the film.
5. Select one of the film theories from Chapter 11 of *Movies and Meanings* (Realist, Auteurist, Psychoanalytic, Ideological, Feminist or Cognitive). Analyze the film’s plot using the selected theory. Discuss why you believe the theory you selected is a useful point-of-view for analyzing this film.