**A Level Film: Year 11 into Year 12 Transition**

***Suggested Activities***

**TASK ONE: 40 days to learn Film**

Mark Cousins, writer of The Story of Film, produced this 2h15m film at the beginning of lockdown. Designed to be watched in segments, one a day for forty days, Cousins covers absolutely everything there is to know about studying film. Once you’ve watched it (and got over the slightly strange delivery in places) you will never see a film in the same way again. <https://vimeo.com/399407221>

**TASK TWO: Read *Empire* Magazine**

Immersing yourself in the world of film is essential part of this course. The influence of the films we study can be seen in many of the most recent films hitting the cinemas, and there’s no better way to keep abreast of the huge film industry than subscribing to Empire magazine. Fortunately, your local library allows you to do just this for free.

Visit [Balham Library](http://capitadiscovery.co.uk/wandsworth/assets/-/eBooksAudioandMusic.html?_ga=2.52706031.617749618.1593119655-1634668314.1593119655) online to sign up for RB Digital and access Empire and a whole host of other great magazines.

**TASK THREE: Watch**

They’re old, they’re quirky, but they’re classics. You’ll be studying all three of these films, and they’ve all got something different to offer as you delve into advanced level film study. While you’re watching, ask yourself why Hitchock loved *Un Chien Andalou*, why Buñuel detested *The General*, and why Keaton never smiled…

On Youtube: [The General](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iHlBMKtgPOA), Buster Keaton, 1927 ; [Un Chien Andalou](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIgrpFCmK6I), Luis Buñuel, 1929l.

On Netflix: Vertigo, Alfred Hitchcock, 1958.

**TASK FOUR: Make a documentary**

We be studying *documentary* as an art form. Or a genre. Or a style. Either way, there’s no better time to document the world than a global crisis. And if you’ve got a smartphone, you’ve got everything you need. In 2018, Charlotte Prodger won the prestigious Turner prize (and a cool £25,000) by using her phone to capture scenes from her own life experience. So over to you: what’s life really like for a teenager in lockdown? Capture the highs and the lows; edit, snip and cut and create your own visual record of the times.

**Digital Resources**

The BBC series *Inside Cinema* takes a theme each episode, and explores that theme across a range of different films. These documentaries are great to dip in and out of and give viewers a real knowledge of how to talk about film. And at only 8 minutes long, the *Shorts* are perfect for a short burst of knowledge.

**An Essential Read**

*The Great Movies*, Roger Ebert. Broadway Books, 2003.

Everything you want to know to get you into the classics of cinema history. Bonus points if you watch them all!

**Podcasts**

The New York Times recommends seven… they’re all great:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/15/arts/7-podcasts-movies-oscars.html>