

NOTICE TO CENTRES

FAO: All OCR Media and Film Studies Teachers

Date: June 2013

Subject: GCE/GCSE Media Studies and GCE Film Studies

INAPPROPRIATE MATERIALS

Centres are reminded that materials studied on a GCE or GCSE Media Studies or Film Studies course should be age appropriate for the students taking the course, with due consideration given to the maturity of the students on the course.

When selecting study materials or giving advice on practical production ideas, centres need to apply common sense and demonstrate appropriate judgement whilst also taking into account current health and safety regulations and relevant child protection laws to ensure that a due level of care is shown to their students.

In recent series there have been some examples of production work that have caused concern, and in some cases, been referred back to the exam board by moderators and then back to the centres themselves as 'inappropriate material' via OCR's Child Protection Officer. Rather than list examples of offensive or inappropriate material here, it is important to state that teachers need to 'supervise' and ultimately be responsible for artefacts that are sent to the exam board. On occasion examination responses have also been referred back to the exam board and then back to the centres where it is clear that candidates are expressing opinions that have not been taught and are clearly inappropriate for public examinations.

Centres should have a robust health and safety policy in place ensure that students are both aware of it and that they adhere to it. For example, students need to be aware whose permission they need to film in private and public places, and they need to be aware of the dangers and risks that filming can pose to themselves and to members of the public. Awareness of the law, application of common sense and consideration for others are all vital - including taking into consideration how a finished artefact may be interpreted by other centres, parents or the general public if it is eventually made available via the web or other means.

Written permission should be obtained by centres from those individuals whose pictures are taken or appear on film via a Model Release Form. If work is also to be published on the web, then centres should ensure that they have asked models for all appropriate permissions on their release forms. Bearing in mind that any material published on the web can never be reliably removed, centres should always adopt the latest principles of best practice when publishing online – including the basic Department for Education advice not to link an image to the name of a school student.

Centres and candidates are expected to comply to the guidelines given above at all times when working on Media and/or Film Studies production units.

If you have any queries about this notice, please call our Customer Contact Centre on 01223 553998.