

Access Film Studies

Essay 1: You must answer **ONE** of the following questions

1. Provide an account of the elements of film style with regard to Welles' *Citizen Kane*.

This question asks you to provide an account of some of the key features of mise-en-scene, cinematography, editing, and sound. Apart from explaining these features, you will also have to identify the patterning of the various stylistic elements and the function they perform in the overall film. You may also consider what Welles draws on from other stylistic movements (Expressionism, Montage, Hollywood, Realism, etc.). It is imperative that you illustrate your account throughout with examples from *Citizen Kane*.

Essential reading:

Bordwell, D. and Thompson, K., 2010. *Film Art: an introduction*. 9th ed. New York: McGraw Hill, ch.8.

Buckland, W., 2010. *Understand Film Studies*. London: Hodder Education, ch.1.

Citizen Kane. 1941. [Film] Directed by Orson Welles. USA: RKO.

Fabe, M., 2004. *Closely Watched Films: an introduction to the art of narrative film technique*. Berkeley: University of California Press, ch.5.

2. Provide an account of the elements of film narrative with reference to Welles' *Citizen Kane*.

Firstly, you will need to briefly account for the importance of stories and define narrative in terms of film. You will also need to distinguish between story and plot, and diegetic and non-diegetic elements. The main body of the essay will involve your consideration of the principles of narrative construction with reference to causality, time, and space, and how these guide development. You will also have to convey an understanding of the range and depth of information that film narration allows. As with question 1, it is imperative that you illustrate your account throughout with examples from *Citizen Kane*.

Essential reading:

Bordwell, D. and Thompson, K., 2010. *Film Art: an introduction*. 9th ed. New York: McGraw Hill, ch.3.

Buckland, W., 2010. *Understand Film Studies*. London: Hodder Education, ch.2.

Citizen Kane. 1941. [Film] Directed by Orson Welles. USA: RKO.

Fabe, M., 2004. *Closely Watched Films: an introduction to the art of narrative film technique*. Berkeley: University of California Press, ch.5.