What are the different types of creative media product?

Audio / Moving Image

- 1. TV Programmes
- 2. Films
- 3. Music Videos
- 4. Animations
- 5. TV and Radio Adverts
- 6. Radio Broadcasts
- 7. Podcasts

Publishing Products

- 1. Newspapers
- 2. Magazines
- 3. Comics
- 4. Brochures
- 5. Print Advertisements

Interactive Media Products

- 1. Websites
- 2. Mobile Apps
- 3. E-Magazines
- 4. Mobile games
- 5. Online Games
- 6. Video Games
- 7. Advertisements

How can you identify the audience for a media product?

- 1. Gender Is it aimed more at a male or female audience? Or both?
- 2. Age Is it aimed at a particular age group? E.g. Children / Teenagers
- 3. Lifestyle Is it for a specific group with a shared interest? e.g. extreme sports, knitting, cars.
- 4. Socio-Economic Is it aimed at a particular class of people? E.g. upper class Tatler magazine
- 5. Primary Audience Who is the product mainly aimed at?
- 6. Secondary Audience Who else might be interested in the product or be attracted to it?

What are the purposes of different media products?

- To inform the audience
- To inspire the audience
- To entertain the audience
- To benefit the audience
- To raise awareness for a cause
- To promote a product / service / person
- To innovate
- To provide escapism
- For the benefit of the community
- For profit
- For experimentation

What is meant by codes and conventions?

The features of media products which are common to most similar products. For example - Most Magazine covers feature: A title, a larger central image, information about articles in the magazine, the price, a barcode etc

Representation of people and places:

How does the media product portray people and places? Are there positive or negative portrayals of the characters and places?

Are there stereotypical images / descriptions? Does the producer consider the perspective of the audience?

Audience interpretation:

How does the audience interact with the product?

- 1. Passive interaction: Accepting the message without question
- 2. Active interaction questioning the message given or using interactive features (e.g. the Red Button, voting on celebrity shows like "I'm a celebrity"
- 3. Preferred Readings: where the producer wants to give a particular message or point of view.

How are media products designed to appeal to the audience?

- 1. Genre The recognisable type / style of product -
 - For Film this includes: Sci-Fi, Horror, Thriller, Comedy, Animation.
 - For Games: 1st Person Shooter,
 Driving, Sports, PVP, Strategy
- 2. Sub-Genre Different versions within a genre perhaps combining two genres to make a new one (Hybrids) e.g. Animated Sci-Fi, First Person Driving Game
- 3.Repetition / Difference How similar / Different is the magazine, TV programme, Website, Game to other similar products in the same genre

Narrative: What are the different ways that media producers develop the story?

- 1. Storytelling E.G the plot of a film or the use of images alongside text in an app, the inverted pyramid of a newspaper article
- 2. Narrative Structure Does the story have a linear structure? (Start, middle, end) or a non-linear structure, is it interactive? Is the storyline circular?
- 3. Point of view (POV) From whose point of view is the story told / experienced? 3rd person? 1st person?
- 4. Characterisation This helps in creating a picture of the Protagonist and others, in the readers mind. It talks about the characters Persona, Looks, Mannerisms, Language, Type of Person, Background etc.
- 5. Themes Does the product have an identifiable theme? E.g. Post apocalyptic, Romance, Zombie invasion, Western, Detective etc.
- 6. Setting Where is the product based this could be the location or background or in games it could be open-world.
- 7. Mode of address There are different ways to address the audience: formal (e.g. a news broadcast) direct (e.g. the cover of a magazine) or informal (e.g. a game)

How are media production techniques combined to create meaning for audiences?

Audio/moving image media products:

- Camera work, e.g. set-up, framing, shot type/length, camera angle, movement of the camera in a shot
- Mise en scène, e.g. use of costume, hair, makeup, props, setting and expression
- Lighting set-up, e.g. under, overhead lighting, side lighting, fill, use of shadows
- Use of sound, e.g., sound effects, voice-overs, dialogue, incidental music, bridges, sound mixing
- Editing techniques, e.g. flashbacks, transitions, pace, continuity, montage

Publishing media products:

- Using different layouts and design techniques, e.g. alignment, balance, contrast, proximity, repetition, rule of odds use of white space
- Style of typography, e.g. serif and sans serif typefaces, fonts and font size,, letter spacing and line height, readability
- Photographic techniques, e.g. composition, image quality, lighting effects, depth of field, aesthetic, rule of thirds
- Image editing techniques, e.g. adding filters, colour and contrast, layering images, distorting images