GCSE Film Studies Film Context Sheet

Social Context	Cultural Context
Historical context	**Political context**
Technological Context	**Institutional Context**
Film History and Film technology	**Theme – what is the film about?**

Film Title

Narrative
What is the story of the film? Sum it up in 25 words or less.

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Glossary

Term	Meaning
Social context	The society in which the film was made. How people live, the type of work they do, the kind of lives they live – how is this reflected in the film?
Cultural context	Beliefs and opinions of different groups of people which are reflected in the film. This could be as big as religious ideas or as small as the kinds of food they eat and how they eat it. For example, a character eating with a fork in a Chinese film might be a big deal.
Historical context	When was the film made and when is the film set? What was going on in the world at that time? How has this effected the story, plot, theme and look of the film?
Political Issues	What political message is the film conveying (if any)? For example, the Batman films have a very definite message about capitalism, the value and effectiveness of the police and the role of the individual in society.
Technological context	What technological limitations were there on the film makers when they tried to put what they wanted on screen (a good example is the shark in *Jaws* as opposed to the sharks in *Sharknado*). What technology appears in the film – as an example, it's very hard to make a horror movie set after the invention of mobile phones.
Institutional context	How does this film fit into the business of film making? How did the budget effect what appears on screen? Did the film have an easy production or was it a nightmare like *Titanic*?
History of film and film technology	Have any of the following impacted on the production of this film: the first moving images and silent film • the rise of Hollywood and the development of sound • the introduction of colour film • the emergence of widescreen technology and 3D film • the development of portable cameras and Steadicam technology • the role of computer-generated imagery in film
**How does the above context inform the following things?**
Theme	What the film is about – its core concern or message
Story	What happens in the film
Plot	*How* the story happens – this person goes here and meets person B who gives them this thing which leads them here.
Genre	What type of film is it? How can you tell?
Representation	How does the film show different types of people? Think about gender, ethnicity, age and cultural backgrounds.

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