1.1 Reading film

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 25 marks**

KEY WORDS mise-en-scène • editing

Reading film

Objective

Use the four systems of film language precisely, complete the denotation–connotation–significance chain in every paragraph, sit an extract in its four contexts, and structure the 1 750-word analysis (the textual-analysis task).

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

Textual-analysis toolkit. Four systems: mise-en-scène (setting, costume, lighting, staging), cinematography (shot size, angle, lens, movement, composition), editing (duration, transitions, continuity, montage), sound (diegetic vs non-diegetic, dialogue, silence, bridges). The chain: denotation (describe precisely) → connotation (read the suggestion) → significance (meaning in THIS film). The extract: at most 5 minutes from a prescribed film, chosen and justified as focal. Four contexts: production, historical, cultural, generic. The document: extract justified, context compact, analysis element-by-element, conclusion of significance; 1 750 words; sources separated primary/secondary. Failures: catalogue, plot summary, review. Worked: the neo-realist long take read as the movement's argument.

2 Practice

2.1 Name the four systems of film language and one element of each. [4]

2.2 Distinguish diegetic from non-diegetic sound with one example of each. [2]

2.3 Complete the chain for: "a low-angle medium shot". [2]

2.4 What does a long take hold that montage cannot? [2]

2.5 Name the four contexts an extract is sat in. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 *(Analysis style.)* A prescribed neo-realist extract shows a long take, location light and direct sound of a worker walking home. Write the analysis paragraph: denotation, connotation, significance, context. [6]

3.2 *(Justification style.)* Draft the extract-justification paragraph: what the examiner needs identified, and the two tests a chosen extract must pass. [4]

3.3 *(Failure-diagnosis style.)* A draft paragraph reads: "The scene uses a close-up, a pan and non-diegetic music. This shows the director is very skilled." Name the failure and rewrite the sentence through the chain. [3]