Comparing films

IB DP Film comparative-study task full package

1. The study at a glance

The study at a glance

IB Film comparative study: a recorded multimedia presentation of at most 10 minutes comparing two films on one chosen focus, with sources - 30 percent at SL. The spine is intercultural: two films from different cultural contexts, compared with film language and read through context.

Must-know: the focus first (one axis, before the films are locked); the pairing tests (contrast value, same instruments); parallel analysis element by element with the chain; contrasts explained by context; the presentation's five sections with clips as evidence; the double review, catalogue and theme-essay failures.

2. Focus and pairing

Focus and pairing

The focus is one comparison axis stated as a question or proposition - not these two films but how two new waves stage the city. It comes FIRST because it disciplines the pairing.

The pairing tests: each film says something the other does not (contrast is the value), and both are readable with the same instruments. Different cultural contexts, from the guide's world-cinema scope. Worked: urban isolation through sound - a European art film against an East Asian metropolitan drama.

3. The comparative method

The comparative method

Parallel analysis, not two reviews: choose the focus's elements (diegetic density, score presence, dialogue and silence, the bridge), then for each element analyse BOTH films in one movement, the chain completed for each.

The finding lives in the contrast and its explanation: the European film thins its soundscape (isolation as emptiness); the Asian film crowds it with machine sound (isolation inside noise) - two film cultures answering the same modern isolation, explained by context.

4. The presentation

The presentation

Recorded multimedia, at most 10 minutes: the focus in one sentence with a clip hook; the pairing identified (title, director, year, country, why this pairing); the element-by-element comparison with clips as cued evidence; the contextual explanation; the conclusion owned as one reading.

Craft: clips are evidence (short, cued to the analysed moment); the voice carries the argument; the clock is hard at 10 minutes; the sources list separates primary (the films) from secondary (scholarship).

Check yourself

Check yourself

Focus before films; the two pairing tests.

Parallel analysis with the chain; contrast as the finding.

Context explaining each film's solution.

The five sections; clips cued; 10 minutes; sources separated; the three failures.