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91493



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 3 Media Studies 2025

91493 Demonstrate understanding of a relationship between a media genre and society

Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Demonstrate understanding of a relationship between a media genre and society.	Demonstrate in-depth understanding of a relationship between a media genre and society.	Demonstrate perceptive understanding of a relationship between a media genre and society.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

You should write an essay on ONE of the five statements in this booklet.

If you need more room for any answer, use the extra space provided at the back of this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

Do not write in the margins (//////). This area will be cut off when the booklet is marked.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

Merit

TOTAL 06



Page 1

INSTRUCTIONS

Choose ONE **media genre and society**. (Note: 'Society' refers to a community in a specific time and place, or the audience for a genre.)

Write an essay discussing the **extent** to which you agree with ONE of the statements below.

Respond critically to the statement by evaluating the **influence, impact, and wider significance** of a relationship between your chosen media genre and society.

STATEMENTS (Choose ONE)

1. An emerging* genre can reflect cultural change.
2. For better or worse, genre shows us how society used to be.
3. Genre echoes political ideologies.
4. Social discourse** shapes genre.
5. Genre peers into society's shadows.

*emerging becoming recognised

**discourse exchange of ideas

Media genre:

Society:

Select your statement: ▾

PLANNING

Sleeping with the enemy, Joseph Ruben 1991

Gone Girl, David Fincher, 2014

Flightplan, Robert Schwentke 2005

Double Jeopardy, Bruce Beresford 1999

Black Swan, Darren Aronofsky 2010

Girl Power, Kathleen Hanna, frontwoman for riot grrrl band Bikini Kill, starting the third wave of feminism.

Violence against women, Anita Hill, court case with a male worker that assaulted her and used racism as an excuse for why he was accused, making out Anita, and black women, to be a racist and liar, showing the violence against women and how the legal system failed women and one of the reasons why the third wave of feminism started

Change how the media portrays women, Reese Witherspoon, making a film studio company called Hello Sunshine,

showing how there is a space in this industry for female leads doing amazing things

ESSAY

Type your essay in the space below. You should aim to write a concise essay of no more than 800–900 words. The quality of your writing is more important than the length of your essay. (The counter will change colour when you reach the recommended word count.)

Make sure you **respond only to your chosen statement** *throughout* your essay, and include **relevant, specific supporting detail** from a range of media texts.

B *I* U      

Psychological thrillers sometimes peer into the third wave of feminism in the USA, in the 1990s, shadows. Psychological thrillers are a subgenre of thrillers that have complex stories that mess with the audience's mind to show different perspectives of people. Psychological thrillers are made for all and are enjoyed by all, but because of the thought that they'll be more popular with males due to the stereotypical aspects of the films, they were much more aimed at males before the 1990s, but over time these films were known to have a strong appeal to females too and the media changed the leads and stories to adapt to this audience during and because of the third wave. The waves of feminism have grown over time with the first wave being the right to vote, the second wave being the change in legal aspects and laws for women, like having the right to claim your being raped no matter if your married to the person, and the third wave, that is still trying to be achieved to change the minds of everyone, so everyone is completely equal. Some aims of the third wave are to give women girl power and empowerment, another is ending violence against women, and lastly changing how the media portrays women. Some psychological thriller films that show the third wave of feminism in the USA, in the 1990s, include: *Sleeping with the Enemy*, directed by Joseph Ruben in 1991, *Gone Girl*, directed by David Fincher in 2014, *Flightplan*, directed by Robert Schwentke in 2005, *Double Jeopardy*, directed by Bruce Beresford in 1999 and *Black Swan*, directed by Darren Aronofsky in 2010.

Some psychological thrillers peer into the third wave of feminism in the USA, in the 1990s, shadows through the aim of girl power and empowerment by showing the harsh truth of films before the third wave and how the media changed for the better for females. *'Gone Girl'* uses girl power to show it peers into the third wave of feminism's shadows by showing the new and complex characters that the media couldn't show before that time and how the media used to show females as victims, innocent and scared, but *Gone Girl* shows a complex antagonist that has very different and atypical characteristics of female characters that before the third wave psychological thrillers didn't have and women couldn't have as examples of females in media. Amy in *'Gone Girl'* is the perfect example of girl power in a psychological thriller film because of her complex emotions we get to see. Amy is calculated, smart and determined, showing women watching this film not to let the media victimise you and that women are just as complex, if not more, and by having these examples on film, it should encourage women to stay true to ourselves and express ourselves more. Amy isn't always looked at as inspirational or empowering as a character because of her very realistic and flawed characteristics that she has, along with the actions she makes throughout the film, but these actions show how strong of a character she is and well these actions don't need to be looked at as encouraging to do, it shows how you should always stand up for yourself and do whatever you have to do as a female to have the same equal chance any man has. An example of girl power in the real world is during this time, when the third wave of feminism was starting, Kathleen Hanna was encouraging and expressing herself to continue the third wave of feminism. She was the frontwoman for riot grrrl and the band Bikini Kill. Kathleen Hanna used her popularity to bring women the safety and empowerment to be themselves through having concerts and not only making sure the women can enjoy the band, like they deserve, but also keeping them safe by bringing them to the front and even getting off stage just to help her female fans out. This overall shows how Psychological thrillers peer into the third wave of feminism in the USA, in the 1990s, using girl power to show that in the shadows of before the third wave of feminism, women didn't get to have examples of empowering women in media like we do today.

Another aim that shows some Psychological thrillers peer into the third wave of feminism's in the USA, in the 1990s, shadows is ending violence against women. Some psychological thriller films show the shadows and negative aspects of the third wave of feminism and how it hasn't been achieved yet by showing the very sad truth of violence against women, particularly with sexual harassment. This is sadly shown in multiple psychological thrillers, but is shown very obviously in the film *'Sleeping with the Enemy'*, showing many different forms of abuse and the negative aspects and shadows of the third wave that haven't been achieved yet. In this film, Laura, the female lead, is abused by her husband, Martin, and she has to escape and start a new life to get away from him. This shows the strong struggles of domestic abuse and just how hard it is to get away from. Laura, the female main character, shows the sad truth, trying to end violence against women in the third wave, reflecting this perfectly in this film by showing it so rawly. This is also shown in *'The Black Swan'*, showing the clear sexual harassment from the teacher to the student. This film shows how, in this industry, it is so normalised and happens so often that people assume it, and after a harsh scene in Thomas's office where he forces himself on her, nothing is done, and she almost looks up to him more. These films have these harsh and terrifying scenes showing the true horror the females have to deal with in many, if not all, industries, showing the shadows of the third wave and how this has not been stopped, looked at or talked about enough. A real-life example of this is the Anita Hill case. This is a court case with a male worker who sexually harassed her and used racism as an excuse for why he was accused, making out Anita, a black woman, to be a racist and a liar. This case shows the legal system failing women and how men have the real power, overall showing the shadows of the third wave and why this case was one of the reasons for the start of the third wave, because of the backlash of women seeing how Anita was treated.

The last aim that shows some psychological thrillers peer into the third wave of feminism's shadows is to change how the media portrays women. The aim of changing how women are portrayed in films like the psychological thrillers shows that these films look at the shadows and negative aspects of the third wave of feminism, and how changing media hasn't been completely achieved and needs to continue. In 'Flightplan', this has been done beautifully by changing how the media portrays women to not be the strong lead, with the character having all the ideas and complex emotions through the character named Kyle. This character is the female lead, and she embodies all the aspects that show a clear change in media, with her having a strong job that is more male-oriented and being outspoken and having a strong voice. Kyle is an amazing example of the kind of characters that can change the portrayal of women in media and change how everyone else sees women and how young women have to see themselves in film to have more empowering characters for women. Another example is through "Double Jeopardy", showing the main female character, Libby, changing the way women are portrayed. Libby was a very strong, complex character who would do anything for her child. She changed the way women were portrayed because of the stereotypical aspects women used to have in media and how these were changed to show how women can be calculated, strong and fearing. Libby used her strength and smarts to show power to her husband, who tried to frame her for murder and take her child away from her. A woman changing the media in the real world is Reese Whitterspoon. Reese spoke in a speech for winning the Woman of the Year, the risks she took in starting her own film studio company, called Hello Sunshine. In the speech, she talked about how people told her there wasn't a market for films with strong female leads in the industry, and she proved that there is a space for female-oriented movies and that they will be successful and she has shown that by still having the company running and thriving and having multiple successful films like "Luckiest Girl Alive" and "Gone Girl". These films that they make change the way the media portrays women because they are strong female characters with different, complex characteristics. Overall, psychological thrillers show how they peer into the third wave of feminism's shadows through changing the way women are portrayed because of the new characters that before the third wave they couldn't have and how these characters can empower and change the outlook on female characters for all.

In conclusion, these films show that psychological thrillers sometimes peer into the third wave of feminism in the USA, in the 1990s, shadows, but they also all show the empowerment that is strong and growing for women by showing different and complex characters that the media didn't have before as amazing examples for women of all races, ages and social classes. These films overall show the female leads that need to be represented in film perfectly, with all the different flaws and characteristics that make up these amazing and realistic characters.

1632 WORDS / 900 RECOMMENDED

Merit

Subject: Media Studies

Standard: 91493

Total score: 06

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
1 (5)	M6	The candidate demonstrated some reasoned understanding of the relationship between the genre and society in their chosen statement 5: "Genre peers into society's shadows". This was supported by some explanation of the impact and some detailed evidence.