

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER:
Skyfall (2015, Mendes, UK)

The conventions of Bond films:

<p>Bond is the superior, most dominant character.</p>	
<p>Bond villains are male. They are inferior to Bond, usually shown by a physical deformity.</p>	
<p>Women are shown as weak, they are inferior to the male characters.</p>	
<p>Bond films begin with the 'roaming circle' indent.</p>	
<p>James Bond is a British icon. His values represent British values.</p>	

How Skyfall subverts usual conventions:

<p>Women are presented as stronger and more powerful than previous Bond films.</p>	
<p>There is more serious tone to the film compared to previous versions.</p>	
<p>The 'roaming circle' indent is at the end of Skyfall.</p>	

<p>Key Sequence 1: Opening Sequence Takes place between Istanbul, Turkey and London.</p> <p>Cinematography and Lighting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The opening shot is a blurred long shot, showing an out of focus silhouette of an unknown figure. - The unknown figure walks forward into a close up of Bond's face. - Low key lighting lights up only his eyes. <p>Possible effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The blurred silhouette suggests that this version of Bond is unfamiliar and mysterious. <p>Mise-en-scène Colour palettes used in the two locations are contrasting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Istanbul, the colour palette is browns. - In London, the colour palette is blue. <p>Editing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bond and M are almost always positioned centrally in the shot. - The two aesthetic motifs are established in the opening sequence <p>Possible effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bond and M are almost always positioned centrally in the shot. - The two aesthetic motifs are established in the opening sequence <p>Possible effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The brown colour palette is a symbol of reality and physical fighting. - The blue colour palette is a symbol of the power of technology. - Bond and M are in control as they are centrally positioned, but technology is more powerful as M is using it to control Bond. <p>Editing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cross cutting is used to show Bond and M communicating with each other between Istanbul and London. <p>Possible effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shows how Bond is being assisted by technology. He needs it to help him. <p>Sound</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We hear a short burst of the Bond theme tune when the blurred silhouette appears on the screen. <p>Possible effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The theme tune suggests that although this version of Bond is unfamiliar, he is the same James Bond that audiences recognise.

<p>Key Sequence 2: Silva's lair Silva, the film's villain, reveals himself.</p> <p>Cinematography and Lighting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Silva appears in a long shot at the back of the room. <p>Possible effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The shot of Silva is similar to the opening shot of the film, suggesting how Bond and Silva are similar. - Once Silva reaches Bond, a low angle shot is used of Silva standing over Bond. <p>Possible effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The low angle suggests Silva's power over Bond. <p>Mise-en-scène</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The setting of Silva's lair is an isolated island. There are no people and the buildings appear to be crumbling apart. <p>Possible effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suggests that Silva doesn't have as much power as he believes. - Suggests that Silva destroys everything he comes across. <p>Possible effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bond is positioned centrally in the shot. - Suggests that Bond is still in control of the situation, even though he is Silva's prisoner. - His position is similar to the position of M in the opening sequence, again suggesting the control he has. <p>Editing</p> <p>As Bond waits for the arrival of his nemesis, there are cutaways to his calm face, showing that though he may be prisoner - and surrounded by the technology that threatens his ability to protect his country - he is calm and almost amused by the familiarity of his situation.</p> <p>Silva's monologue all occurs in one shot - there is no edit until he stops talking. As he walks towards the camera and his size increases in the shot, Bond (and the audience) realise his importance within the film.</p>

Specialist Focus: Aesthetics

- Aesthetics covers the look, style, tone and mood of a film.
- There are two key visual motifs throughout:

<p>The brown vs blue colour palettes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The brown colour palette is a symbol of reality and physical fighting. - The blue colour palette is a symbol of the power of technology. - The film explores the conflict between the two. <p>Central positioning means power and control.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Characters positioned in the centre of the shot shows they are in control. - Bond and M are almost always positioned in the centre of the shot.

Word	Meaning	Image
aesthetics	The overall look, style or mood of something.	
characterisation	What a writer makes a character like (as a fictional 'person')	
contrast	A striking difference.	
convention	The usual way of doing something.	
cross cut	When the edit cuts from one location to another showing action in different places at the same time.	
dominant	Having the most power, influence or control.	
foil	A character who contrasts with another, to emphasise something about the other character	
inferior	Not as good or as important as something or someone else.	
motif	A symbolic image or idea that is recurring (repeated) in a text	
subvert	When something is what you would not usually expect.	
superior	Better or more important than something or someone else.	
symbol	Something that represents or stands for a bigger idea	
tone	The mood created.	