

Prior Knowledge: You will have already looked at the five key components of **Film Form (Cinematography, Mise-en-scene, Editing, Sound and Performance)** to enable you to analyse these text. You will have studied **Documentary**, a major influence on the American New Wave, and compared two examples of **Global Cinema** (*Pan's Labyrinth* and *House of Flying Daggers*),

WJEC Eduqas AS/AL Film Studies: Component 1, Section 1



1930-1960

Hollywood Comparison: *Casablanca* and *Bonnie and Clyde*

The Big Five Studios:

Warner Bros, Paramount, RKO, MGM, 20thC
Fox - Produced and distributed films and owned theatre chains.

The Little Three Studios:

Universal, Columbia and United Artists -
Produced and distributed films but did not own theatre chains.

The Hollywood Studio System, 1930-1960:

Key Points:

- Factory-like production. Key personnel (including stars) are on contract. Each studio develops a 'house style'.
- Studios develop formulas/sets of conventions governing narrative and film grammar, including **continuity 'invisible' editing** and **closed narratives** with one main plot with a limited number of sub-plots.
- Film is the key leisure activity, attracting mass audiences - 1946 is the peak of cinema-going in the USA with more than 90 million weekly box-office receipts.
- **Censorship:** All scripts must adhere to the Hays Production Code - a set of rules governing filmmaking in the USA.

Comparison	Casablanca (Curtiz, 1942)	Bonnie and Clyde (Penn, 1967)
Film form and aesthetics	 Classical Hollywood style and narrative - use of the 180 degree rule and continuity editing. Use of low-key lighting and smoke to create a noir-like aesthetic. Max Steiner's score, including 'As Time Goes By' adds to the nostalgic, romantic aesthetic.	 More experimental - merges French New Wave and Classical Hollywood. Opening shot an E.C.U instead of the usual establishing long-shot. Death scenes use slow-motion and rapid edits. The bluegrass soundtrack evokes Texas during the 1930s.
Representations	 Rick is the world-weary, older tough-guy Ilsa is more emotional and shot in a soft-light to accentuate her femininity. The multicultural cast represents the different ethnic groups living in the French colony Morocco at the time.	 Bonnie and Clyde reflects the younger, rebellious counter-culture. Bonnie is active - at the start of the film she is restless and seeks adventure. Clyde is de-masculinised to an extent - he is impotent.
Institutional contexts	 Shot on Warner's studio lot. Executive producer Jack Warner and producer Hal. B. Wallis oversee production. Bogart is on contract at Warners and develops his tough-guy persona in previous Warners' films such as <i>The Maltese Falcon</i> (1941).	 Director Arthur Penn deliberately shoots on location to get away from executive producer Jack Warner. Warner hates the film demonstrating how he is now out-of-touch with changing youth tastes.
Cultural contexts	 A classic Hollywood film - epitomises Hollywood at the peak of collaborative studio filmmaking. Made at a time where Hollywood was joining in the war effort making patriotic films.	 The film harks back to Warner's gangster films of the 1930s.
Social, political	 Takes place in the 4 days leading up to the attack on Pearl Harbour and America's entry into World War Two - Rick's cheque is dated 2nd December, 1941. A propaganda film to convince Americans they must make personal sacrifices and enter the war effort.	 The violent deaths of Bonnie and Clyde relate to the graphic images of the war in Vietnam screened daily on television and the late 1960s as an era of unrest. The characters of Bonnie and Clyde reflect young rebels distrustful of authority.
Auteur	 Collaborative studio filmmaking. Key personnel include, director Curtiz, producer Hal.B.Wallis, composer Max Steiner and cinematographer Arthur Edeson. Curtiz directed over 100 films at Warners - an efficient and commercial director.	 Producer and star Warren Beatty hired director Arthur Penn. Penn's auteur trademarks included on-location shooting, small production teams and an interest in American culture.

Future Learning: Bonnie and Clyde is an example of New Hollywood or the **American New Wave**. Next, we will be looking at examples of the European New Wave films that inspired Arthur Penn (*La Jetee*, *Daisies* and *Saute Ma Ville*) as well more experimental American films including