

# GCSE Media Studies

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**Teaching the Close Study Products (Television)**

Activity booklet

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# An Unearthly Child

## Public Service Broadcaster

Dr Who was made and broadcast by the BBC, a public service broadcaster (PSB).

What is the difference between a PSB and other broadcasters?

How were television services, including the BBC, paid in 1963? How is this different today?

What times of the day and week could you watch television in 1963? Why was viewing restricted?

In 1963, the BBC was sometimes criticised for taking a 'high moral tone': telling people how to think and behave? Does this come over in An Unearthly Child?

## Compare and contrast

Dr Who was originally made and broadcast in 1963, a time when television production was very different from today. Use this chart to compare and contrast the equipment and techniques used in 1963 television drama with those used today.

1963		Today
	Type of cameras used	
	Camera movements	
	Range of shots	
	Use of focus	
	Location shooting	
	Colour and image quality	
	Post production: Editing	
	Special effects	
	Sound recording	
	Acting style	

# Co-owner of a Lonely Heart

1963

The first episode of Dr Who was made and first broadcast in 1963. As one of your historical CLOSE STUDY PRODUCTS, you will need to know something about 1963 so that you can study *An Unearthly Child* in context.

Carry out some internet or library research to collect information about the following. You could also ask people who are old enough to remember 1963.

- Fashion in 1963
- Popular Music in 1963
- National and International Politics in 1963. (Who was the Prime Minister? Which political party was in power? Who was the president of the USA?)
- Science and Technology in 1963
- Television in 1963
- Science Fiction in 1963

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## Binaries

**Narrative** is often driven (and made more exciting) by the conflict between opposing forces or ideas. Usually, the audience feels a sense of satisfaction when one side decisively wins over the other (Resolution). Sometimes though, the conflict is unresolved or the outcome is uncertain.

Use this chart to explore and explain conflicts in *Co-owner of a Lonely Heart* between the following **binary opposites**. Add some more binary opposite pairs of your own.

Binary Opposite	Features in <i>Co-owner of a Lonely Heart</i>	Resolution
Good : Evil		
Youth : Age		
Human : Alien		
Peace : War		
Strength : Weakness		

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## Media Industries

Class was originally made available on BBC 3. BBC3 was launched as a broadcast service alongside BBC1, 2 and 4 in 2003, but in February 2016 it became online only, accessed through BBC iPlayer.

- Carry out some internet research to find out why online television is becoming as important as broadcast television.
- Why did the BBC decide to move BB3 to 'online only'?
- How successful was Class in terms of viewing figures on BBC3, broadcast on BBC One, broadcast in America? Will there be any more series of Class?
- How has technological convergence changed the ways we watch television? List all the devices we can use to access television content.
- How and why do you prefer to watch television: broadcast, downloaded, streamed (e.g. iPlayer, Netflix, Amazon Prime)?
- BBC 3 (now rebadged as BBC III!) is aimed at a younger audience (16-34) with a strong focus on comedy. How does it appeal to this audience?



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## Links

[bbfc.co.uk/releases/class-video-3](https://bbfc.co.uk/releases/class-video-3) – British board of film classification, Class, season one, episode four.

[thedoctorwhosite.co.uk](https://thedoctorwhosite.co.uk) – Lots of useful background material, including timelines, on Doctor Who.

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# Notes



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## Contact us

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