SECTION 1

1) AUDIENCE

From my research I have found out, using the internet, that Casualty is a show directed at all ages. BBC is a broadcasting channel which provides programmes to suit all ages. 5.55 million people watched casualty on the 21/11/16, I found this out using the website BARB. BBC one also had a revenue of £5.166 Billion in 2013/14. This shows that BBC reaches all age ranges through their variation of programmes as so many people watched casualty. It was the 12th most watched programme that week. Because of this, I have decided to make a medical drama based on a similar programme, waterloo road and casualty. These shows already prove popular with a diverse age range. To appeal to this target audience I will use a variety of different actors of different ages.

I found that an average of 6 million people tuned in on a Saturday night regularly to watch casualty, so I decided to target similar audiences by having my scenes related to casualty and tragedy. I will also have a medical setting to make it similar to casualty. BBC One air their programmes such as Casualty on later during the day or night as there are some graphics which teenagers and adults would find suitable to watch but maybe not so much young children. Because of this I have decided to target my Show to teenagers and adults as these are the age of the viewers who tend to watch Casualty.

I also have done research through surveys which my peers helped me with. They answered questions such as what type of TV shows they like and a large percentage of them dedicated their answers to at least one soap. I also asked similar questions such as what TV channel they watch regularly and a large percentage said BBC, which is the channel Casualty is broadcasted on so this further shows Casualty is a popular show as most of my peers watch that channel regularly. Because of this feedback, it impacted the show that I picked and is the reason I am inspiring my show to be similar to Casualty as it is aired on BBC One.

I asked my focus group if they were more likely to watch a programme depending on what age the actors were and a large percentage of the responses agreed that they were more likely to watch a programme if the actors in the programme were of similar age, so I will make sure that my actors are of a diverse age range but mostly younger. A lot of my focus group all agreed that they were more likely to watch a programme if it was set locally or around Scotland so I will make sure that my actors are still diverse but mostly from around Scotland or have a Scottish accent. In Casualty the language used is very professional and formal so others can understand them so because of this, while my show is based in a school setting I will be sure to keep the language used mostly formal and well pronounced to ensure they can be heard clearly.

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2) INTERNAL INSTITUTIONAL FACTORS

Due to being in school, locations for filming are to my advantage as my plan is to be in a school setting to and so being in a school I am easily able to create a school environment and educational feel to my movie.

Due to filming in school, I have to abide by the set school rules given by my school. These include keeping my behaviour to a good standard when walking around the building and so I have to ensure when I am filming that me and my characters are being reasonably quiet and not disturbing any other classes – all while being able to be heard on the device I am filming my characters on. I have to also ensure that the language I am using is appropriate for a school environment and so I could not use any swear words or inappropriate language in the school corridors.

Due to my movie being based in school like surroundings, I have to do all my filming during school time to be in the school setting. This created issues as I only have limited periods to film during my media class. Because of this time limit I am restricted to when and where I can film as I have to make sure I am in the school setting during media.

My characters are required to wear school clothes to show they are in a school environment and show the age range for my characters as only teenagers will be in a school environment apart from teachers. This is to my advantage as I am able to film during school and do not have to make extra arrangements for my characters costumes. This is convenient as I do not have a budget for buying costumes.

As I am filming during school, in a school environment I am not able to include any weapons or dangerous equipment in my movie. This is a rule imposed by my school. This will not affect my film as I did not plan to or need any weapons to be shown in my movie.

I want to film using the medical room in my school so I have arranged when this will suit the school nurse. I met with her before I start filming to discuss filming arrangements and we agreed that I could film as long as she was in the room. Because of this we have arranged a date where everyone was available to film and I am glad as this will make it look more realistic with a medical scene due to the medical room including hospital like beds and sick bowls etc.

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3) EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONAL FACTORS

Watershed – In Casualty, because it is aired at night time on a Saturday night (generally) they are allowed to say and do things which would otherwise be inappropriate as it’s aired at night time and the mass viewers are teenagers or older. This includes the variation of actions such as fighting, accidents and using language such as swearing, inappropriate language for children etc. As my show is set in a school, teenagers tend to use a variation of language and vocabulary and cause accidents due to their hyperactivity. Because of this I will show shots of my characters acting in a way which could cause harm to another person (giving pupil nut when they have nut allergy) due to them not thinking.

The BBC has a copyright law which shows must abide to. This includes copyright on music. It states that music that is copyrighted cannot be used unless it’s cleared, reported and paid for. For show productions it states you should keep an eye on your budget for your show to ensure you have enough budget to clear report and pay for the music you will use in the background. If you don’t legally agree to use the music you could face legal action for copyright infringement and be forced to pay back money. Because of this I will not use any copyrighted music in the background of my show unless I have full legal access. However, you are allowed to use music for educational purposes so I will use a song that fits well with the tone of the show that is quite upbeat and dramatic.

The BBC also has health and safety laws in place, like all tv productions, to ensure the safety of the workers on set. This can limit the amount of stunts done on set as health and safety laws can prevent these actions from taking place. Because of this I will ensure all my characters are safe by staying within the health and safety laws. For example, my characters can’t stand on top of tables or chairs and falls/faints will have to be done on a mat or somewhere safe where damage can be prevented to my characters.

After reading the BBFC I researched about what is suitable for age 12 and over shows as that’s the age classification my show is. It states that for language, it’s suitable for there to be moderate language and strong language may be used depending on the context and manner in which it’s used. For this reason I will make sure there is no swearing in my episode.

Because of my show I decided to research the BBC’s production values. BBC aim to promote diversity by showcasing more ethnic minorities and transgenders, lesbians etc. Because of this I have considered including a more diverse range of people in my movie such as more characters from different ethnic backgrounds and genders.

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4) ONE RELEVANT KEY ASPECT OF CONTENT

I am going to use Todorov’s narrative theory to plan my production. Todorov’s theory has five staged which are…

Equilibrium: This is normal life for the characters. In my assignment normal life for the characters starts off in the school where the pupils begin their normal day learning in the school. I will show this by doing a long shot of the front of the school transitioning into a medium shot followed by a long shot of the pupils showing them in their school uniform.

Disruption: This is when something disruptive happens in the characters life. In my assignment one of the pupils begins to feel unwell after eating to a sweet given to them by another pupil outside the classroom before the lesson begins. I will show this by doing a medium shot of the pupil giving out sweets to everyone outside the classroom.

Recognition: This is when the characters realize something needs to be done. In my assignment the pupil who takes an allergic reaction goes for a drink of water with another pupil. She then collapses and the friend realizes it’s serious and seeks help from other pupils and teachers. I will show this by taking eye level camera shots of the pupil feeling unwell and showing signs of an allergic reaction such as shaking and showing the pupil drink the water to try and improve her condition.

Action: This is when action takes place to try and repair the disruption. In my assignment, the school calls the ambulance service to come and help. The ambulance service comes to the school to help the pupil who took an allergic reaction to the sweet given to her. The ambulance then takes the pupil to hospital to help her. I will show this by pupils and teachers trying to help the girl until ambulance services arrive. I will also show the ambulance service arriving to help the girl who is unwell.

New equilibrium: This is the new ‘normal’ setting for the characters. In my assignment, the school continues on without the pupil and the girl realises she has an allergy to peanuts. I will show this by taking a medium shot of pupils continuing their normal school day routine such as doing work and talking.

I am going to use Propp’s character theory for narrative too. I will show that I have a hero, dispatcher and sidekick. To separate my characters from heroes and helpers I will do things such as display different actions and attitudes on each character. I will also use a variation of camera angles to show the emotions on different characters faces.

Propp says that the Hero is the character that saves someone for a tragic incident and brings them to safety. Olivia is going to be the hero in the story, she is going to step in and take Claire to get a drink of water after Claire begins to feel very sick and dizzy. She also shouts for help when Claire collapses and makes sure Olivia is safe.

Propp also says that the helper is someone who helps the persons in need. Chelsea and Miss Hardie and the helpers and they step in to help Claire when she collapses.

In Casualty, Each episode is very different and unpredictable yet there is a small link in the storyline. The storyline usually starts with normal life for the characters then quickly moves on to a more dramatic and tragic story. Because of this I will be sure to keep my episode very chopped up and edited by starting off in normal life and quickly moving on to a more dramatic scene very quickly.

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5) ANOTHER RELEVANT KEY ASPECT OF CONTENT

I will create many representations in my TV show. One of the representations will be costumes. The characters will wear school uniform. The characters that are representing heroes will be dressed in smart blazers and school ties to set the scene that they are mature and responsible and are able to help out their peers. The character that gives the pupil the sweet will be dressed in a school shirt and no tie to show that they are not as smart and less likely to think their actions through before carrying them out (knowing the pupil has a nut allergy) and are less responsible. The characters that are playing the role as an ambulance crew will be dressed in green coloured clothing to represent rescue and safety as green is a calming and safe colour.

My TV show will be similar to programmes such as Casualty and Waterloo Road. Waterloo Road tends to use music that is upbeat and popular within the teenage/ young adult community, so because of this I will use upbeat and popular music for my show. This is because it will draw in a teenage/ young adult audience and help represent the two age ranges. Possible songs I may use are upbeat songs with high tempo to attract young viewers.

I also watched Casualty to research my own my TV show. I found out that Casualty always starts with a long shot to establish setting. Because of this I will start with a long shot of the front of the school to highlight that it is going to take place inside the school. This will create a representation of a school setting which will attract the teenage audience as this is a familiar setting for them.

In waterloo road some characters show that they are going to do something bad by using side lighting to create a shadow on their faces. Because of this I will use side lighting on my evil characters to show something they are about to do will be bad. In Casualty there are many high and low cameras angles to show a characters power and weaknesses. Characters with lots of power tend to be shown from a low angle whereas powerless and weak characters tend to be shown from a high angle. So because of this I will display both high and low angles in my show to represent powerful and powerless characters through lighting and shadows.

In Casualty, gender is something which is equally represented throughout the scenes. For example, In Casualty Connie Beauchamp is a character with lots of power and is clinical lead. Guy Self is also a strong leader in the cross over show Casualty/ Holby City. This show fights the stereotype of Males having more power as in Casualty Gender is equally represented. Because of this I have chosen to try and equally represent gender in my show.