**THEMATIC VOCABULARY – FILM ANALYSIS**

**action**
backlight (also contre-jour shot)  filming a person or event against a background of light, especially the sun, which produces an idealized, sometimes romantic effect

**bit part**
a very small role with few lines

**camera**
angle
movement
operator
point of view

**caption**
words that are shown on a cinema or TV screen, e.g. to establish the scene of a story

**cast**
all the actors on a film

**composition**
the arrangement of people or things in a film scene (also painting, photography, etc.)

**credits**
the list of people who were involved in the making of a film or TV programme

**cross-cutting (or parallel action)**
alternating between shots from two or more scenes which are taking place at the same time

**cut**
a switch from one image to the next

**director**
the person responsible for arranging the camera shots and splicing (cutting/pasting) the shots together

**dissolve (or cross-fade)**
following a fade-out with a fade-in in order to move slowly from one scene to the next

**extra**
an actor with no lines, e.g. in a crowd from a black screen or ground, the gradual emergence of an image, which slowly becomes brighter until it reaches full strength

**fade-out**
the gradual disappearance of an image until the screen or ground is completely black; a device used to end a scene

**flashback**
a scene or sequence dealing with the past which is inserted into a film’s 'present time'

**footage**
a length of film made for TV or cinema

**insert (shot)**
a detail shot which quickly gives visual information necessary to understand the meaning of a scene, for example a newspaper page, or a physical detail

**leading man/lady**
to play a leading role

match cut
two scenes connected by visual or aural parallelism, e.g. one door closing and then another one opening

motion picture
to play the part of ... in ...

producer
the person responsible for the overall organization, especially the financing and marketing, of a film or TV production

prop
an object used on set

scene
a shot or series of shots that deal(s) with a single action (see also sequence)

screenplay
the script of a film or television show, usually including dialogue as well as rough descriptions of the setting, camera range, camera movements, etc.

sequence
a part of a film dealing with one or more scenes that form(s) a single continuous episode

shot
a length of film, however long or short, taken by a single camera without cuts

to shoot a film:
on set
in a studio
on location
in authentic surroundings

soundtrack
a band near the edge of a film which has the recorded sound on it ('Tonspur'); the recorded music from a film, play, etc. on tape or CD

still
a single photograph or frame from a motion picture

supporting actor/actress

trailer

visual effects

(voice) off
not to be seen but to be heard (especially a narrator, a character voicing thoughts, or a news correspondent commenting on pictures that are being shown)

voice-over
an explanation or account given in a film or television programme by someone who is not seen