



**PAN AFRICA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS**  
**MAY-AUGUST 2025 EXAM**  
**EXAMINATION FOR DIPLOMA IN COMMUNICATION**  
**DCM203 – FILM PRODUCTION**  
**FINAL PROJECT (50%)**

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**Objective:** To independently plan, shoot, edit, and present a compelling short film (max 5 minutes) that demonstrates core competencies in storytelling, cinematography, sound, and editing, using available resources and solo techniques.

**Project Description:** You are to create a complete short film of up to 5 minutes that reflects your understanding of film production principles. You will be the director, camera operator, editor, sound designer, and (if necessary) actor. You are allowed to feature other actors, but you must manage all technical roles independently.

Your film can be:

- Fictional (e.g., drama, comedy, thriller)
- Non-fiction (e.g., documentary-style reflection)
- Experimental or artistic (e.g., abstract or symbolic visuals)

**Project Must Include:**

- A short script (max 2 pages)
- Use of basic shot variety (close-ups, Medium and wide shots etc.)
- Proper framing, exposure, and composition
- Recorded diegetic and non-diegetic sound (e.g., dialogue, music, effects)
- Thoughtful editing for pacing, continuity, and clarity
- An optional title and credit sequence
- Submission of the final video (MP4 format)

**Submission Deadline:** As per Exam Timetable schedule – Upload to your Google Drive and share the link in such a way that anyone with the link can view without needing further access permissions. A copy should be available to play back in class during SHOWTIME (USB Copy).

### The Grading Rubric

| Criteria                              | Excellent<br>(5 pts)                                           | Very Good<br>(4 pts)                    | Good<br>(3 pts)                           | Fair<br>(2 pts)                | Needs Improvement<br>(1 pt)      |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>THE SCRIPT RUBRIC</b>              |                                                                |                                         |                                           |                                |                                  |
| <b>Script</b><br>Story & Structure    | Original, well-structured, age-appropriate, strong story beats | Clear and coherent with minor issues    | Understandable with basic structure       | Lacks flow or clarity          | Disorganized or underdeveloped   |
| <b>Script</b><br>Dialogue             | Natural, expressive, and fits the tone/character               | Mostly believable and consistent        | Functional but basic                      | Forced or awkward in places    | Unnatural or confusing           |
| <b>Script</b><br>Formatting & Clarity | Well-formatted and easy to follow                              | Minor formatting issues                 | Somewhat readable                         | Difficult to follow            | Poorly formatted or confusing    |
| <b>THE FILM RUBRIC</b>                |                                                                |                                         |                                           |                                |                                  |
| Storytelling & Concept                | Strong narrative, original idea, emotionally engaging          | Clear plot and message with minor flaws | Some originality; story is understandable | Storyline is weak or unfocused | Story lacks clarity or coherence |
| Cinematography                        | Excellent shot variety, framing, and camera movement           | Mostly well-framed and stable shots     | Adequate use of shot types                | Limited visual variety         | Poorly framed or unstable shots  |

|                              |                                                                |                                          |                                            |                                          |                                                |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Sound Design & Audio Clarity | Clear dialogue, appropriate sound use, clean mix               | Mostly clear with minor audio issues     | Some audio inconsistencies or noise        | Audio often unclear or unbalanced        | Distracting sound or unusable audio            |
| Editing & Pacing             | Seamless flow, effective rhythm, smooth transitions            | Mostly smooth editing, logical flow      | Editing is functional with few rough spots | Choppy or inconsistent edits             | Disruptive pacing or incoherent sequencing     |
| Creativity & Solo Execution  | Highly creative within solo constraints; strong personal voice | Creative and competent individual effort | Shows initiative and some creative choices | Limited creativity; few personal touches | Minimal creativity or unclear individual input |
| Visual & Technical Quality   | Visually polished, good lighting and resolution                | Mostly well-lit and visually clear       | Average visuals; some over/underexposure   | Blurry, grainy, or dark in parts         | Poor visual quality throughout                 |
| Overall Impact               | Film is memorable, impactful, and well-polished                | Strong impression with minor flaws       | Solid effort, somewhat engaging            | Has potential, but underdeveloped        | Forgettable or confusing                       |