



## Regulation

It is the responsibility of parents to decide what sort of material their child watches.	It is important that there are regulatory bodies that classify and censor films for audiences.	The internet has made age certification more difficult to enforce.
There are certain images and materials that should not be portrayed in films.	Younger audiences should be protected from certain cinematic materials.	The genre of a film can affect how audiences receive it.
How a film has been regulated makes a difference to whether I choose to see it or not.	Some films I have seen have been age classified inaccurately.	An independent body has no right to tell anyone what they can or cannot see.

## The Role of the BBFC

Look at the following description of the role of the BBFC.

**The BBFC is the UK's regulator of film and video, providing age ratings such as U, PG and 12A. We are a designated body so have legal powers to rate, and sometimes cut or even reject works.**

We also age rate some online material

All our decisions are based on public consultation and our Guidelines, which form a contract between the public, the film industry and us. They are available to download on our main website [www.bbfc.co.uk](http://www.bbfc.co.uk) and are updated every four years following a major public consultation.

Our aim is to ensure that children, and all filmgoers, are protected from harm and illegal material, and that they can make informed decisions about their viewing choices.

[cbbfc.co.uk](http://cbbfc.co.uk)

You can also access the educational guide to the BBFC here: <https://goo.gl/almisL>



## Task

Read the *Student FAQs* for a more detailed insight of what the BBFC involves. When you and your partner have researched the board, set your partner a **ten question quiz to test their knowledge!**

## Don't Knock Twice

Although the film *Don't Knock Twice* was age-rated 15 in Britain, some trailers for fifteen rated films do not show restricted material and are therefore certified at a lower age. This allows the trailer to be exhibited within **different platforms**.

## Task

Access the descriptors for the BBFC's **12a** (<https://goo.gl/Zpj3v1>) and **15** (<https://goo.gl/Fv896l>) certifications.

**What cuts could you make to this trailer in order for it to be accessible to audiences under 15?**

## Task

After watching the film, **review what the BBFC said about your chosen texts**. How far do you agree with their decisions?

Does the **context** of each film affect reception?

Consider the following:

- » **Who** is likely to see this film?
- » **Where** is it likely to be seen?
- » How far could **genre** affect reception of the film?
- » How does the film **position the** audience?
- » Is the use of **media language** a factor?



DON'T KNOCK TWICE is a US horror film in which a mother and daughter are attacked by the spirit of a malevolent witch.

## **Threat**

Characters are menaced by a sinister figure during sequences of sustained threat and multiple 'jump scare' moments. People are raised up into the air and dragged away by an invisible force. In a vision sequence, the figure grabs a child and lifts him up, leaving only his legs in view. There is a crunching sound and we see blood streaming down the child's legs.

## **Injury detail**

A character experiences a vision of a woman cutting her own throat with a large knife, causing a spurt of blood and a large bloody smear on a wall. In another scene, a character steps on a long nail and is forced to pull it out of her foot. Later, the character reopens the wound using her fingernails in order to use her blood to write on a wall.

## **Language**

There is occasional use of very strong language, in addition to milder terms.

There are non-graphic references to the abduction and murder of children. Other issues include verbal references to a character's past struggles with drug addiction.



DRAG ME TO HELL is a US horror film about a young female loans officer who is cursed by an elderly gypsy woman and who subsequently has to vanquish a demonic spirit. It was passed '15' for **strong horror and violence**.

There are some **horror** scenes that exceeded the '12A'/'12' guideline which states: 'Sustained moderate threat and menace are permitted. Occasional gory moments only'. For example, a scene where a female character suffers a nosebleed and blood also gushes from her mouth spraying her boss was momentarily very bloody but also somewhat fantastical, unrealistic and intentionally over the top. It exceeded the '12A'/'12' rubric, but these were not the type of strongest gory images that are unlikely to be acceptable at '15', particularly given the intentional humour that mitigated the momentary horror.

As for **violence**, '12A'/'12' guidelines state that 'Violence must not dwell on detail. There should be no emphasis on injuries or blood'. There are some scenes that exceeded this guideline and one of these featured a young woman fighting off an elderly female attacker in a car. We see the young woman briefly impaling the other woman's forehead and eyelid with staples before subsequently forcing a ruler into her mouth and down her throat. Another scene shows an elderly female attacker punching her hand into a young woman's mouth up to the upper forearm. The young woman subsequently manages to cut a rope holding an anvil up which lands on the older woman's head causing her eyeballs to pop out and hit the young woman in the face and cover her face with gore. The level of detail and emphasis on gore in these scenes exceeded the '12A'/'12' guideline but these scenes did not dwell on the infliction of pain and injury in a manner that took the film beyond '15'. As with the horror scenes, there was also often a strong sense of intentional and knowing humour which reduced the strength of the violence.

DRAG ME TO HELL also contains some moderate and mild **language**.



SUBMARINE is a comedy drama about a 15-year-old boy's coming-of-age as he acquires his first girlfriend and worries about the state of his parents' marriage. The film was classified '15' for strong language.

The quantity of strong language in the film went beyond what is permitted by the BBFC's Guidelines at '12A'/'12' which state that 'The use of strong language must be infrequent, but 'frequent use of strong language' is allowed at '15'.

Other issues in the film include moderate sex references which occur in the narrative context of teenagers finding out about sex and the central character's concerns about his parents' relationship and his mother's infidelity. The film also portrays aspects of school life such as some relatively mild bullying and playing around with fireworks and matches, as well as teenagers smoking. The anti-social and dangerous activities are not endorsed by the film as a whole and the smoking is not overtly glamorised. There is also a scene in which an emotionally confused teenager swallows some pills, but this is not presented as being a serious attempt at self-harm. The manner in which the scene plays out makes it clear that the character has no idea what he is doing, and although he does not come to serious harm his actions are not shown to be without adverse consequences

THE MACHINE is a science fiction film about a man who creates a self-aware piece of female artificial intelligence.

## **Violence**

There are scenes in which people are shot or stabbed, resulting in blood spurts. There is a scene in which a man's arm is broken, exposing bone. In another scene, it is implied that a man's skull is crushed, blood leaking from his eyes.

There is both infrequent strong language and mild bad language and brief nudity.



BLADE RUNNER is a 1982 science fiction film, set in Los Angeles in 2019, in which a police operative is sent to track down some androids.

## **Violence**

There is some strong violence, including bloody bullet impacts and fingers being pushed into a man's eye sockets.

The film also contains a muffled use of strong language, brief nudity and mild sex references.

SHUTTER ISLAND is a psychological horror thriller set in 1954 about a US Marshall who has been sent to investigate the disappearance of a prisoner from a secure unit in a mental asylum.

## **Language**

There is occasional use of strong language, and moderate bad language. There is also infrequent use of discriminatory language by one of the asylum inmates.

## **Injury detail**

During a character's flashbacks there is sight of a man with a gory bullet wound in his cheek.

## **Disturbing images**

Flashback images include scenes set in the Dachau death camp, with sight of dead, emaciated women and children lying in great piles, some frozen in the snow. Other disturbing images include a woman with a fiery hole in her torso dissolving into ash, and a woman with three dead children covered in blood.

There are occasional scenes of moderate violence in which characters fight with fists.



THE LIBRARY SUICIDES is a Welsh language thriller about twin sisters who plan to avenge their mother's death by taking hostage the man they believe to be responsible for her death in the National Library of Wales.

## **Threat**

There are scenes of strong threat as characters are pursued at gunpoint. A man is also taken hostage and forced to place his head in a noose.

## **Injury detail**

There is an emphasis on bloody injury detail as a character is shot and seen lying in a pool of blood.

## **Sex**

There is a scene of strong sex featuring thrusting detail as a man and woman have sex in a variety of positions.

## **Nudity**

There are several brief images of sexualised nudity when a character looks at a porn magazine featuring full frontal female nudity.

## **Suicide**

It is implied that a woman commits suicide by jumping out of a window. There are also several verbal and visual references to suicide when other characters talk about taking their own lives. A man is also seen hanging from a rope. .

## **Drugs**

There are several scenes in which a character smokes marijuana.

There is a moment of moderate violence when a character is shot and use of moderate bad language.