Knowledge Organiser for Quality Street (Print Advert 1956)

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| Production ContextQuality Street made by Mackintosh in 1936. In the 1930’s chocolate was expensive. This product was cheaper for families.The tin was introduced in the 1950s. | The Target AudiencePeople in the 1950s - very different from today’s audience. Men could buy this for their wives and girlfriendsWorking, educated families - new techniques made it cheaper to make, big words used in the copyWomen - fits the idea that all women like chocolate.Adults - features adults in the advert | Messages and ValuesAspirational message linked to class - this product was symbolic of elegance and higher class but now working men can buy it for their families as a treat.Brand identity - The chocolate is luxurious even though it is now cheaper = references to the Regency Era, use of gold and purple, pose of people in the frame |
| Social/ Cultural ContextLuxury and high class things were now more available (chocolate). Very traditional gender roles - men worked, women stayed at home and had to make husbands happy  | Media LanguageTechnical Codes Visual Codes Written CodesComposition - Triangular arrangement Costumes look like sweets (girls), Man is in a suit = PERSUASIVE LANGUAGEof people, halo effect around man, professional/working. Use of Gold = wealth/ luxury Alliteration = delicious dilemmaproduct is framed in the central = attention Rich warm colour palette =attention, wealth Superlatives=delicious, delightful,Camera - Mid shot of people so we can Facial Expressions = excited by chocolates (treat) distinctivesee what they are doing. Lower third - Body language (Kiss) = girls stealing sweets, man happy! Description of new sweets = wewhere all the text is found (less important) Typography - bold, strong, colourful (purple = royalty) need to buy and tryLogo - at the bottom but in colour (stands out) Hand drawn images - lack of technology Formal - educated audience. |
| Historical/Political ContextRationing had ended= more sugar available. The Regency Era(elegance) is referred to (Major Quality Miss Sweetly) - the 1950s was a similar time post war.  | RepresentationMale dominated - he is in control (chocolate/women), he is higher in class, the ‘provider’ (suit) and high status (central image), traditional stereotype that was common at the time of the advert. He is rewarding the women with chocolate.Major Quality - of higher class than Miss Sweetly, has power (military uniform) and statusWomen - love of chocolate, subservient body language suggest that they do as they are told, please the man (implies that this is what all women need to do to be successful). Women are also shown as manipulative - distracting the man to get to the chocolate.Miss Sweetly - very typical feminine colours and showing of skin. Even her name is suggesting a stereotype.Age - makes young people look fun and exciting (ad with old people show them knitting - less fun ) |
| Key Terms and conventionsStructural features, slogan, logo, copy, central image, typography, lines of appeal, superlative, alliteration, brand identity, rationing, Regency Era, patriarchal, intertextuality, rule of thirds, Z line composition, Triangular composition, Male Gaze  | Link to Theorists and theoriesIntertextuality - the people in the frame are from Quality Street ads from the 1930s.Narrative/ Propp - male is the ‘hero’ choosing between two ‘damsels in distress’ (distressed over the dilemma of which chocolate to choose), he has a more serious dilemma to solve.Patriarchal Society - This adverts is showing that men are seen as having more power and status than women.Laura Mulvey and the male gaze - the two women are shown in a way that men would like. They are slim and pretty, acting like they really like the man and are being subservient.  |