**INSTITUTIONAL / SOCIAL / HISTORICAL / CULTURAL CONTEXT**

Now read the following background article on Hammer and make notes *-* <https://www.bfi.org.uk/news-opinion/news-bfi/features/fast-track-fandom-beginners-guide-through-hammer-horror>

What does an ‘X’ certificate mean?

<http://www.screenonline.org.uk/film/id/591679/index.html>

What are the key elements of Gothic horror?

<https://owlcation.com/humanities/The-Gothic-Novel-What-is-Gothic-Literature>

What is Eastman colour film stock?

<https://filmmakeriq.com/lessons/eastman-color-digital/>

*Watch and make notes on the first 21 minutes of the following BBC 4 documentary on horror films in the 1960s.*

Where were / are the Hammer film studios? What were the first films made by the studio?

Who were some of Hammer’s key casting choices? Key directors / writers?

What was innovative about Hammer’s use of colour in *The Curse of Frankenstein*?

Why did the studio intend to shock its audience? How did it achieve this in the film *Dracula*?

Why did the sexual element of Hammer films trouble the censors?

What made Peter Cushing the quintessential Hammer star? How did this reflect the work of the studio?

Use the internet to explore what was happening in the UK in the following areas in 1963.

Read the following background article on *Kiss of the Vampire* and make notes.

<https://horrorpedia.com/2014/04/05/the-kiss-of-the-vampire-1962-british-hammer-horror-film-overview-cast-plot-reviews-trailer/>

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| **UK politics** | **News events** | **Music** | **Cinema** |
| Conservative Harold Macmillan was still prime minister. Conservatives had been in power for 13 years. Macmillan resigned in Oct. 1963: Alec Douglas-Home replaced him. |  |  |  |
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