

Section A
Film Language, Genre and Representation



Revision Booklet

Section A

Assessment Objectives

You are expected to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of how some characters are associated with particular genres and can attain the status of **generic types**.
- Explain the way in which films can create different **socio- political representations** that relate to:
 1. Age
 2. Gender
 3. Sexual orientation
 4. Ethnicity
 5. Culture
 6. Class
 7. Ability
- Explain how representations in films can present different values, points of view and ways of seeing the world.
- Understand the role of stereotypes, both positive and negative, in different genre film representations.

What is representation?

- **Representation** refers to the ways in which people, places, objects, events and cultural identities are portrayed on screen.
- Representations carry **ideological messages**.
- Representations reflect the **values** of the filmmaker.
- Representations can either **reinforce** or **challenge** the socio-cultural norms, 'common-sense' values and dominant ideology (the hegemony – hegemonic values) of the historical moment.
- Often, the representation of a character is **stereotyped** and this can be either positive or negative.
- Filmmakers use **film language techniques** to establish and develop representations.

In pairs, brainstorm as many examples as possible.

Genre	Representation	Character Archetype	+/-, conform, subvert examples
Western	Age Gender Sexual Orientation Culture Class Ability Ethnicity	Old timer, the green-horn Brothel/saloon madam, Cowboy (heterosexual) Rancher's wife (hetero) Noble savage, medicine man Educated northerner Civil War amputee Slaves/Chinese railroad workers	
Science fiction	Age Gender Sexual Orientation Culture Class Ability Ethnicity		
Romantic comedy	Age Gender Sexual Orientation Culture Class Ability Ethnicity		
Horror	Age Gender Sexual Orientation Culture Class Ability Ethnicity		
Action	Age Gender Sexual Orientation Culture Class Ability Ethnicity		
Crime	Age Gender Sexual Orientation Culture Age Ability Ethnicity		

Past Examination Question: Still Image Stimulus

Representation 2018 (8 marks)



- (a) What impression do you think the director is trying to create of this woman (2 marks)?
- (b) Identify **one** positive and **one** negative representation of women in films (2 marks).
- (c) Choose **two** elements of the woman's appearance or surroundings **and** explain what they can tell the audience about her character (4 marks).

Appearance (costume, hair and mark-up, props, performance codes)	Surroundings (element of mise-en-scene, such as setting, set design, props, colour and lighting)

Representation 2017 (10 marks)



- (a) What impression do you think the director is trying to create of these young men (2 marks)?
- (b) How are young black males often represented in film (2 marks)?
- (c) Choose **two** elements of the young men's appearance **and** explain what they tell the audience about their characters (6 marks).

Appearance	Element 1	Element 2
Costume, hair and make-up, performance codes, proxemics and blocking		

Representation 2016 (4 marks)



- (a)** What camera angle is being used? (1 mark)
- (b)** What impression of the character is the director trying to create (1 mark)?
- (c)** Describe how the director uses other film language elements to add to this impression (2 marks)

Other film language elements	Choose two language elements
Colour and lighting, setting, props, performance codes (facial, gesture, body), costume, hair and make-up	

Representation. 2016 (10 marks)







- (a) Choose **two** features of the woman's appearance **and/or** her surroundings and explain what they can tell the audience about her character (6 marks).
- (b) Define what is meant by 'representation' in relation to characters in films (2 marks).
- (c) How are women stereotypically represented in sci-fi/horror films (2 marks)?

Film Language	Appearance/Surroundings One	Appearance/ Surroundings Two
<p>Mise-en-scene (props, costume, hair and make-up, colour and lighting, setting and set design, performance codes, proxemics and blocking)</p>		

Representation Practice

Make notes on the way the director uses film language: **cinematography** (shot type, angle, framing and composition) and **mise-en-scene** (colour and lighting, props, costume, hair and make-up, proxemics and blocking, actor performance codes, setting and set design) to create an impression of the characters for the audience?

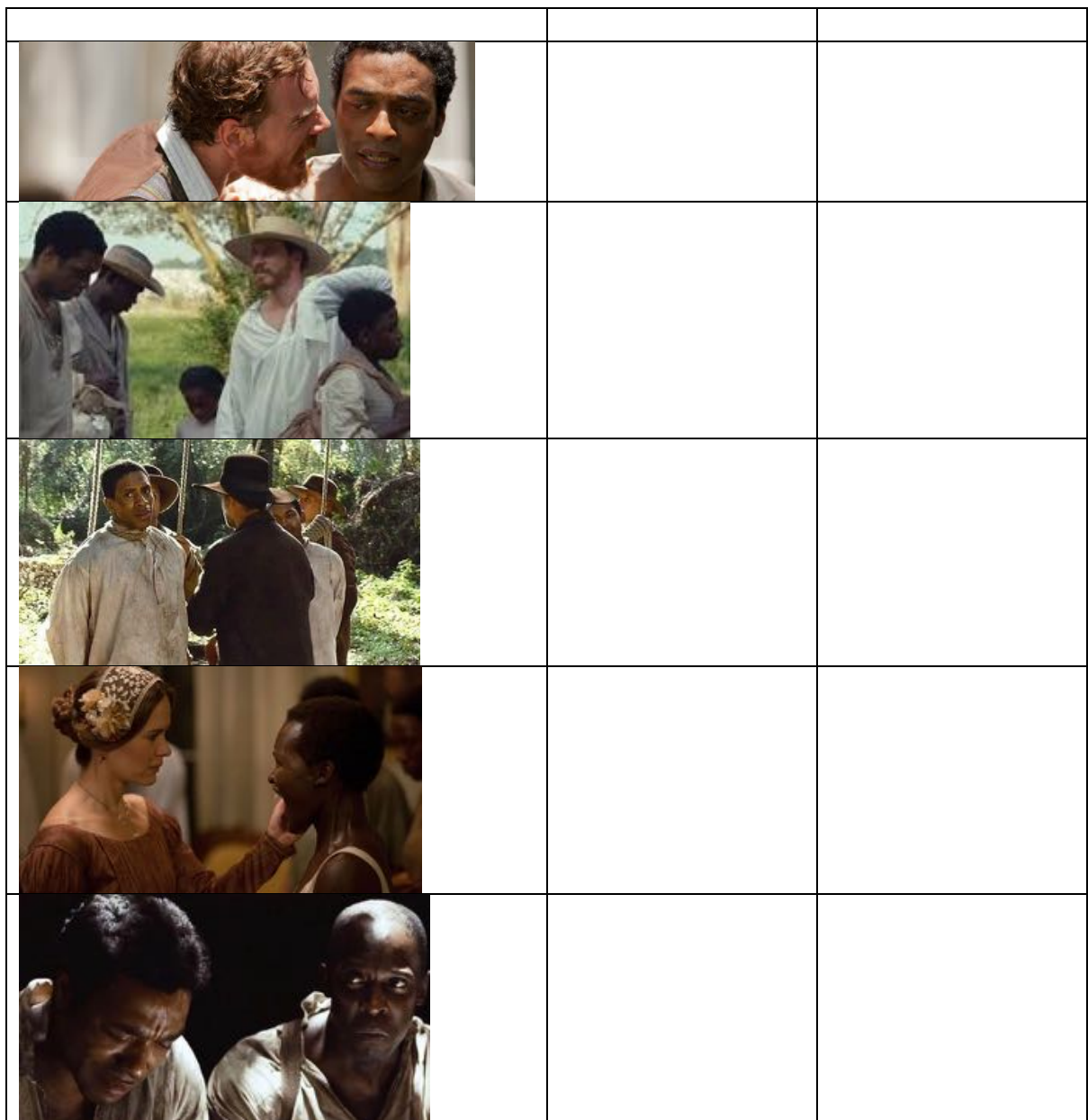
	Film Language	Representation
		
		
		
		

The Help

	Film Language	Representation
		
		
		
		
		




12 Years a Slave



Black Panther



--

--

--



--

--

--



--

--

--



--

--

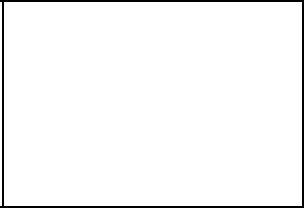
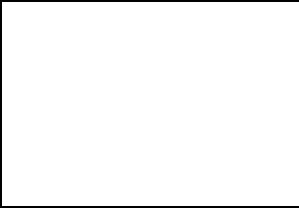
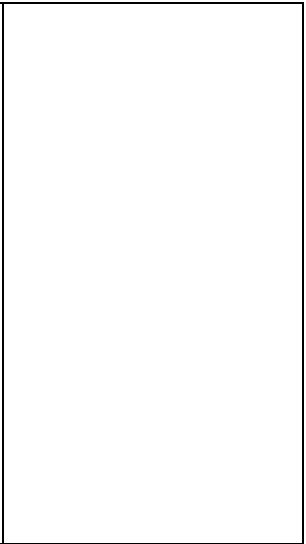
--



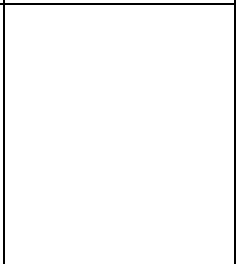
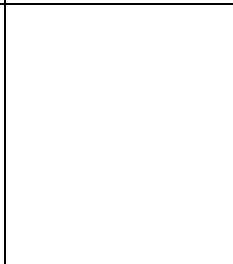
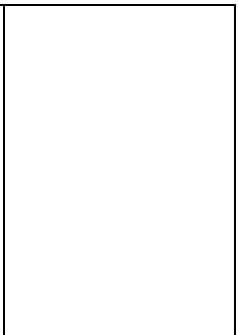
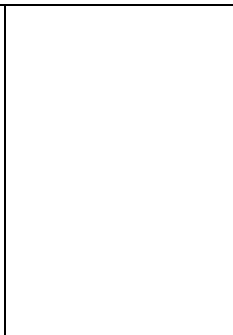
--

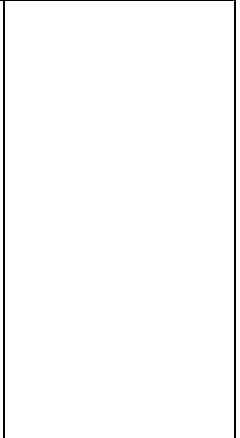
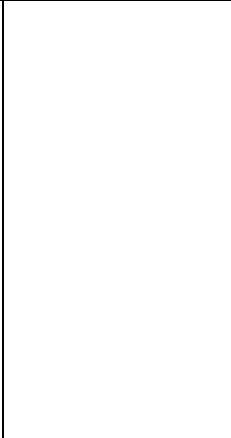
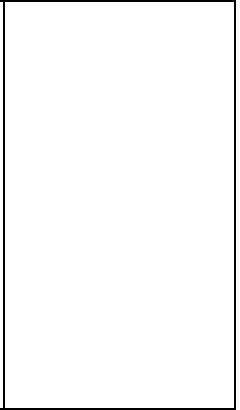
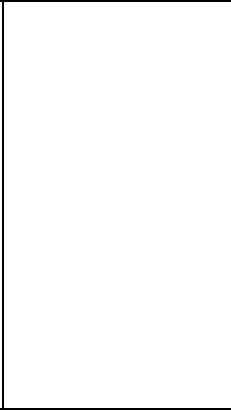
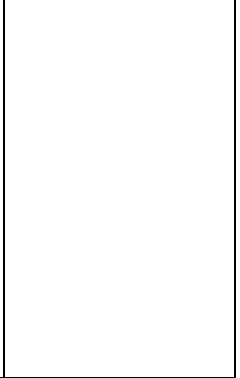
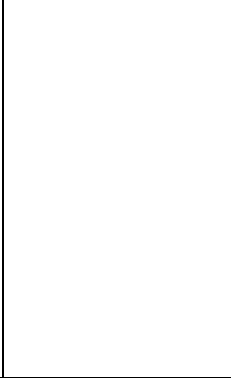
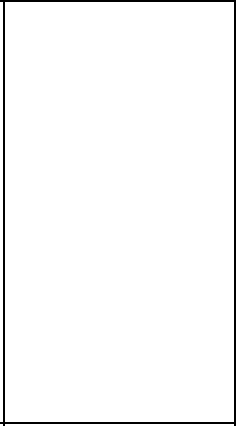
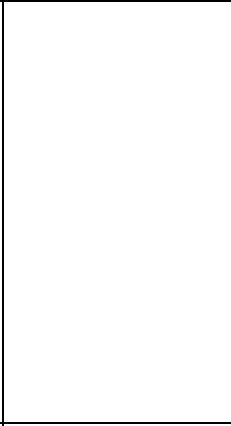
--

--







Ghostbusters





Ability (positive or negative representation)

- Films that have facially-scarred villains will no longer receive funding from the British Film Institute, the organisation has announced, as part of a campaign to remove the stigma around disfigurement.
- From Darth Vader to Scar in The Lion King, film-makers have long made a link between physical disfigurement and evil.
- The BFI is leading the effort to remove the stigma from facial disfigurement by casting actors who do not fit the traditional Hollywood aesthetic.

		Film Language	Representation
			
			
			
			



Films with positive representations

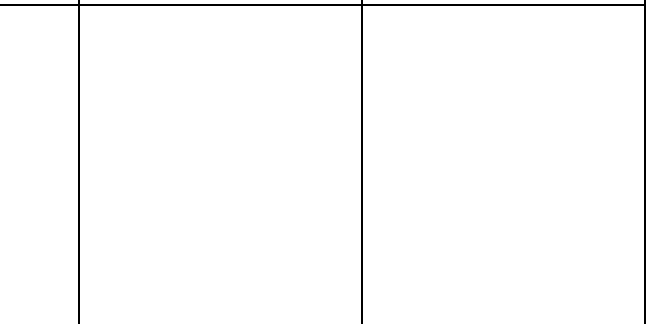
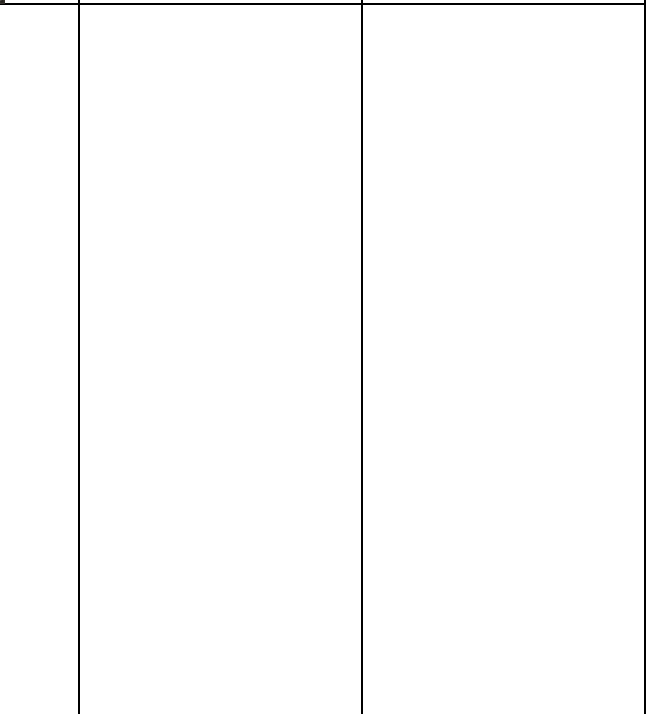
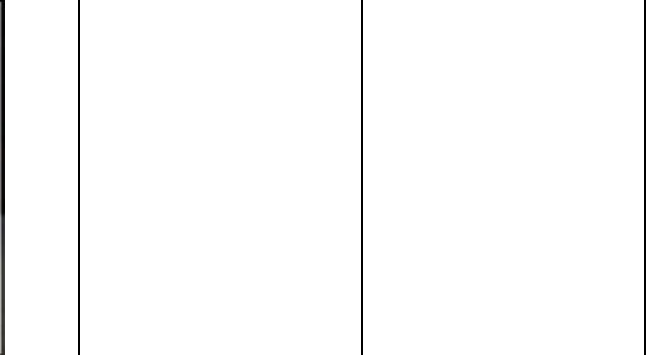
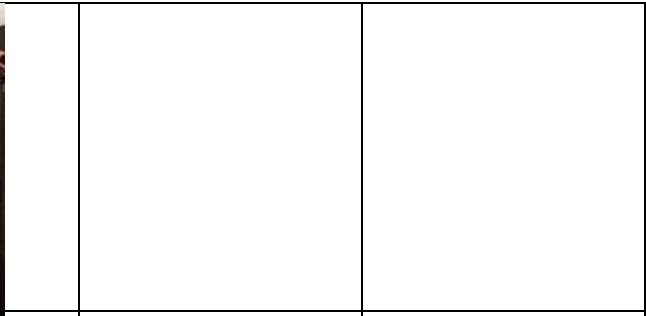
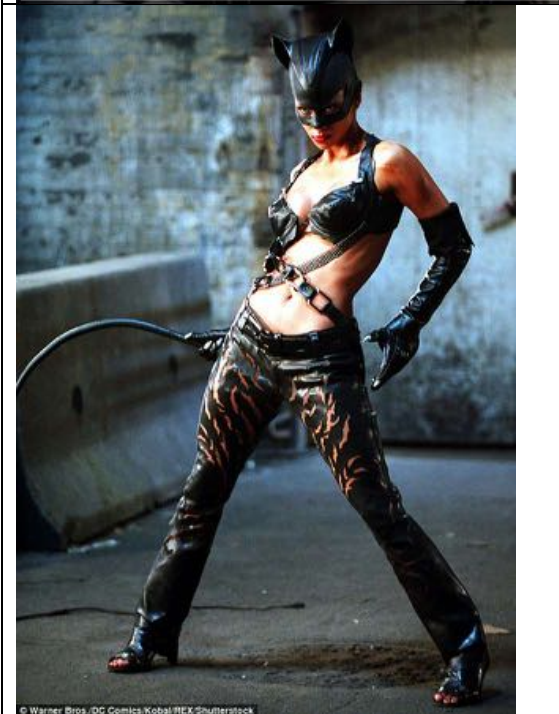


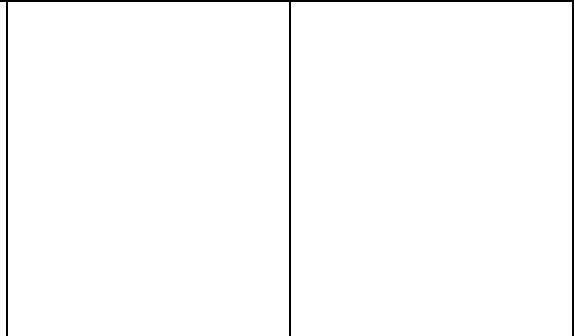
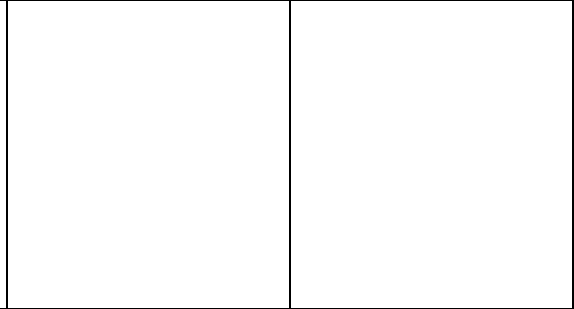
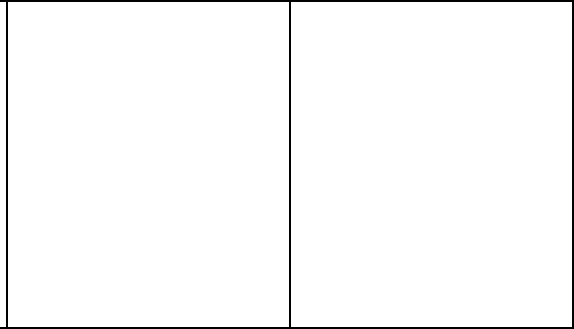
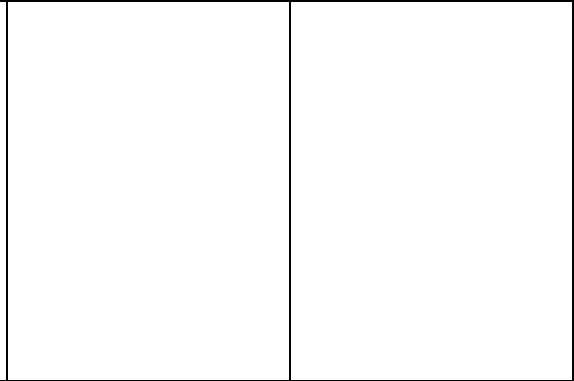
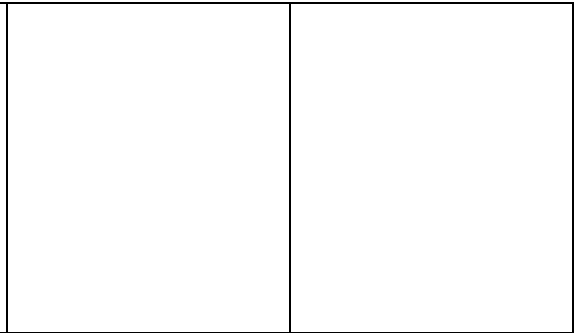
Representation of Class

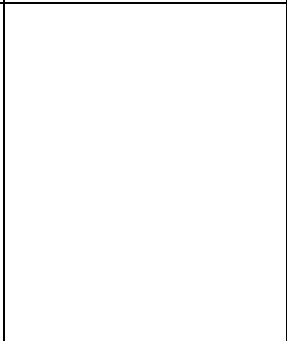
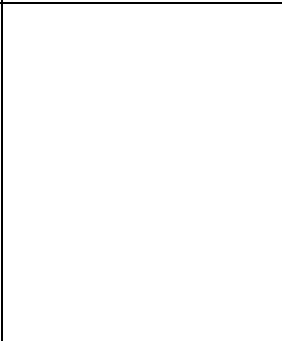
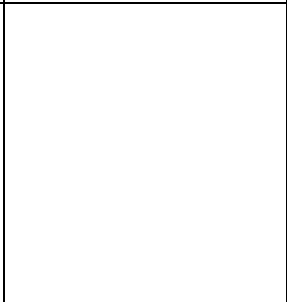
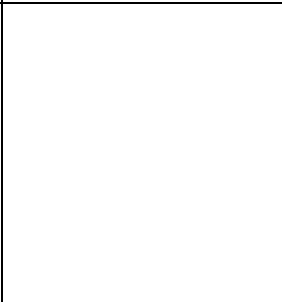
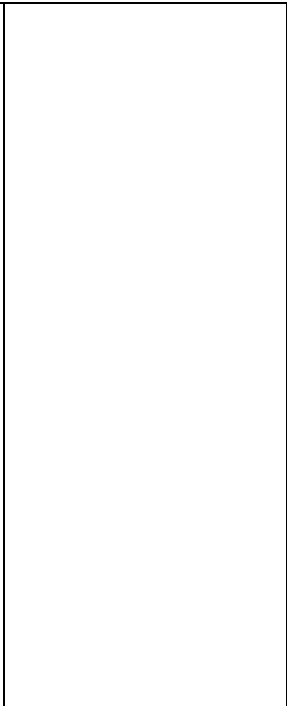
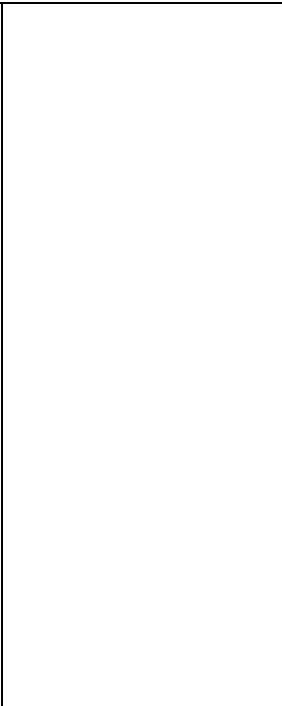


Representation of Gender

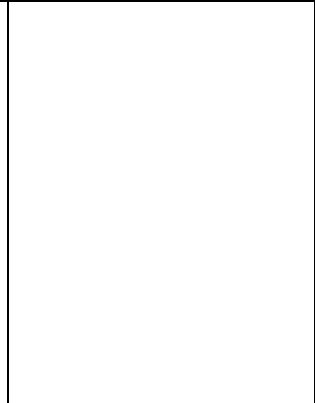
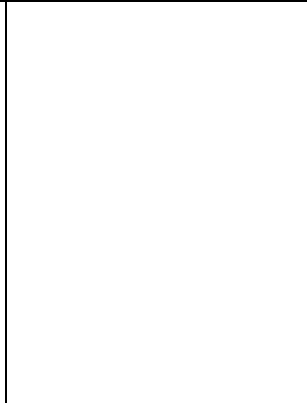
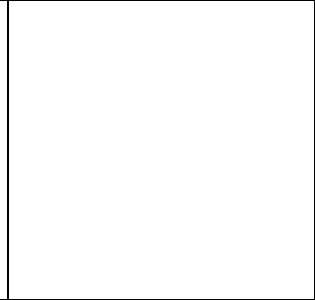
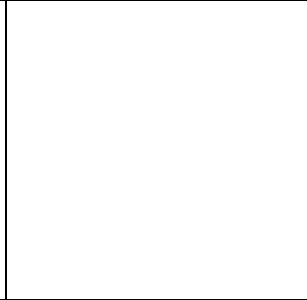
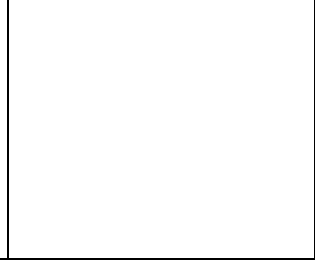
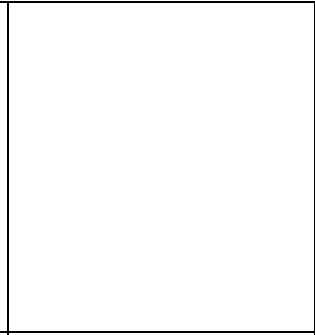
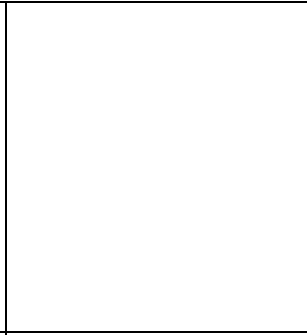


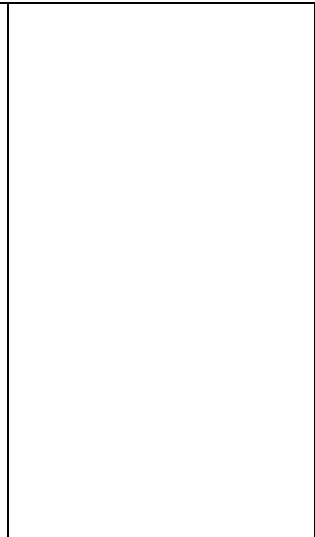
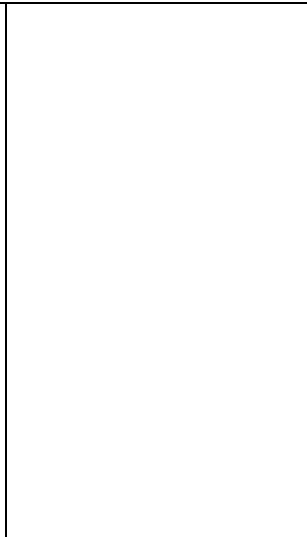




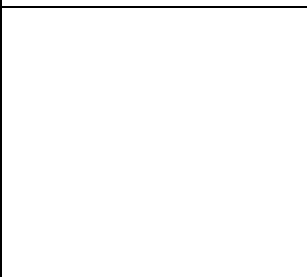
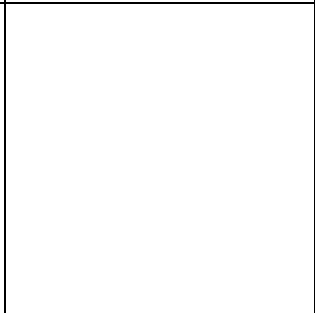
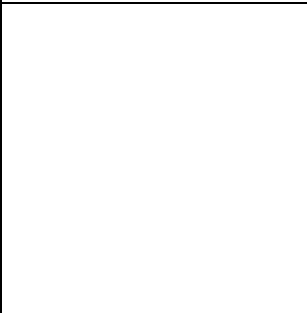
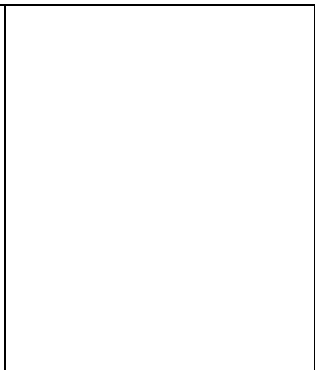


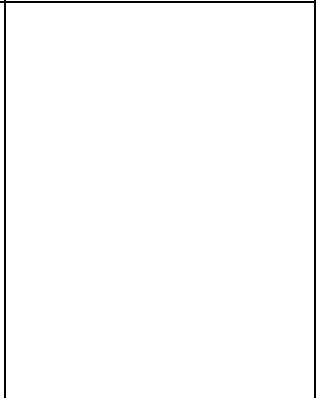
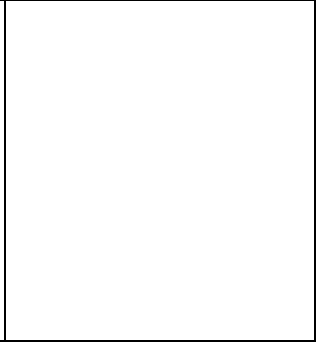
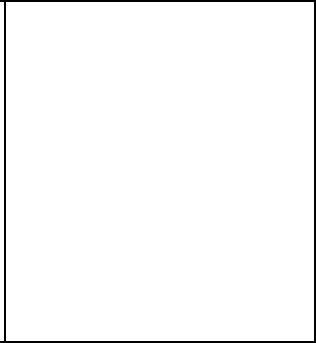
Representation of Age





Representation of LGBTQ+





Representation of Culture

