Timeline of key developments in film and film technology:

1895 First moving images (Lumiere brothers)

1895-1927 Development of silent cinema from early short films to full-length feature films, during which period the foundations of filmmaking were established-eg cinematography, the principles of lighting and continuity editing and an extensive range of mise-en-scene, including location shooting

1920s Gradual emergence of a vertically integrated Hollywood film industry, established by 1930 into five major studios (Paramount, Warner Bros, Loew’s/MGM, Fox -Twentieth Century Fox in 1935-and Radio Keith Orpheum-RKO) and three minor studios (Columbia, Universal and United Artists)…the Bid 5 and Little 3

1927 Alan Crosland’s The Jazz Singer was the first feature film with a soundtrack

1935 Rouben Mamoulian’s Becky Sharp was the first feature length three strip colour film.

1948 Paramount court case which prevented studios from owning all phases of the production, distribution and exhibition process (vertical intergration) which led, in the 1950s, to the emergence of independent film production and agents producing films for the Hollywood studios to distribute and exhibit

1950s Emergence of widescreen and 3D technologies as a response to the growth of television and the corresponding decline in cinema attendance

Late 1950s Although not the first examples, lightweight, portable cameras were produced suitable for hand-held use (which impacted on documentary filmmaking and were used by a new generation of directors in France – French ‘new wave directors)

1970s Steadicam technology developed by cinematographer Garrett Brown (a stabilising device for hand-held cameras to keep image ‘steady’ whilst retaining fluid movement). First introduced 1975

1990s onwards More widespread use of computer-generated imagery, most significantly pioneered by Industrial Light and Magic in the 70s, resulted in a move away from filmed ‘special effects’ to visual effects created digitally in post-production to the computer generated imaging of characters in films