Glossary
Attack the Block (2011) – Aesthetics
Component 2 - Section C: Contemporary UK film

Term	Definition
Aesthetics	The look or visual style of a film. In Film Studies, the aesthetic of a text (film) is created through the use of mise en scene, cinematography and editing).
Homage	a work created in honor of something or someone, generally to show one's respect.
Genre	The categorization of films into stylistic groups based on shared characteristics, typically including shared ways of using iconography, characters, visual style (aesthetic), narrative, themes & issues and setting.
Convention	The established characteristics and key elements that films in a specific genre use.
Conventional	When key elements (mise en scene, cinematography, editing and sound), representation, or narrative are used in a **similar** way to other films from the same genre.
Unconventional	When key elements (mise en scene, cinematography, editing and sound), representation, or narrative are used in a **different** way to other films from the same genre.
Conform (genre convention)	You conform to genre conventions if you use them in a typical way.
Subvert (genre convention)	You subvert genre conventions if you use them in a non-typical way for creative effect or if you ignore them altogether.
Chiaroscuro lighting	A technique that uses contrasting light and dark to create depth, mood, and drama in film.
High key lighting	The use of very bright lighting, meaning there's less contrast between the darker tones and the brighter areas in a scene.
Low key lighting	The use of very dim lighting in a scene.
Films of influence	The pre-existing films that a director has taken inspiration from. The director might use similar aesthetic, characters, narrative and/or themes or copy them directly. For Attack the Block, Cornish's films of influence were *Critters* (1986), *Gremlins* (1984), *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* (1982), *The Warriors* (1979), *Assault on Precinct 13* (1976) and *Alien* (1979).
Hybridity/ hybrid genre	The term given to films that combine conventions from more than one genre. For instance, *Attack the Block* is a science fiction-horror film as it uses conventions from both genres.
Subgenre	A smaller category of film that fits within a larger genre. For instance, the subgenre within science fiction that *Attack the Block* belongs to is 'alien invasion'.
Brutalist architecture	An architectural style that emerged during the 1950s in the United Kingdom, among the reconstruction projects of the post-war era. Brutalist buildings are characterised by minimalist constructions that showcase the bare building materials and structural elements over decorative design. In *Attack the Block,* the buildings on the estate are examples of this architectural style.
Urban realism	a cinematic style that focuses on the gritty, often harsh realities of city life, typically depicting the struggles and experiences of ordinary people, especially those from working-class or marginalized communities
Hoodie horror	A British horror film genre that explores Britain's class system and often portrays working-class characters as evil or inhuman. Examples of films in this genre include *Eden Lake* (2008) and *Harry Brown* (2009).

Glossary

Attack the Block (2011) **– Aesthetics**
Component 2 - Section C: Contemporary UK film

Iconography	the distinguishing elements, in terms of props and visual details, which characterise a genre. For example, iconography associated with science fiction is includes spaceships, aliens and futuristic technology. There is limited use of this iconography in *Attack the Block*.
Wyndham Tower	The name of the main council block in the film, in honor of John Wyndham, the English science fiction writer famous for novels such as *The Day of the Triffids* (1951) and *The Midwich Cuckoos* (1957)