

# Abitur-related movies

## Who says learning can't be fun?

recommended movies in preparation for your "Abitur"

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Version 11 / September 12

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## America

An inconvenient truth (environment)  
 Cool it (environment)  
 Erin Brockovich (corporate America; environment)  
 The Insider (corporate America)

The pursuit of happiness (American Dream)  
 The Great Gatsby (American Dream)  
 Death of a Salesman (American Dream)  
 American Beauty (American Dream; American Life)  
 Babel (American Dream, superpower America, illegal immigrants)  
 Forrest Gump (American Dream; history)  
 Pretty Woman (American Dream)

Traffic (drug trafficking; immigrants)  
 Across the sea of time (Immigration; IMAX 3D Movie)  
 Gangs of New York (Immigration; 1835-1860)  
 Color purple (Slavery)

## Politics 2000s

Wall Street 2: Money never sleeps (financial crisis 2008)  
 Frontline: Inside the Meltdown (documentary, financial crisis 2008)  
 ENRON: The smartest guys in the room (capitalism, financial crisis)  
 Let's make money (documentary, capitalism, financial crisis, globalisation)  
 Michael Moore: Capitalism: A Love Story (documentary, capitalism, financial crisis)  
 Michael Moore: Fahrenheit 911 (9/11) (documentary, Elections, Terrorist attacks)  
 Michael Moore: Bowling for Columbine (documentary, School Shooting)  
 (L. A.) Crash (racism, melting pot)  
 A time to kill (KKK; racism)  
 W (George W. Bush)  
 The American Future (the future of America; past and current events, documentary)  
 9/11 (terrorism)  
 Body of lies (terrorism)  
 Project: Peacemaker (terrorism)  
 Extremely loud and incredibly near (9/11)  
 Restrepo (war, Afghanistan)  
 The Hurt Locker (war, Afghanistan)  
 The Special Relationship (Tony Blair / Bill Clinton)

**Politics 1990s**

Wag the Dog (American politics, Clintongate)  
Primary colors (American politics, Clinton, elections)

**Politics 1980s**

Rocky IV (Cold War; Ideology)  
War Games (Cold War)  
The day after (Cold War; Atomic War)  
When the wind blows (Cold War; Atomic War)  
Wall Street (capitalism)

**Politics 1970s**

Platoon (Vietnam War)  
Good Morning Vietnam (Vietnam War)  
Apocalypse Now! (Vietnam War)  
Deer Hunter (Vietnam War)  
All the president's men (Politics: Watergate)  
Nixon (American politics – Watergate)  
Frost/Nixon (Politics: Watergate)

**Politics 1960s**

Apollo 13 (Space program)  
MASH (Korean War)  
Malcolm X (Racism)  
Mississippi Burning (Racism)  
Thirteen Days (Politics: Cold War – Cuba Crisis)  
JFK (Politics, Assassination)  
James Bond: From Russia with Love (Cold War)

**Politics 1950s**

J. Edgar (American Politics, Hoover)  
Good night, and good luck (American politics, McCarthy)

**Politics 1940s and before ...**

- Grapes of Wrath (Great Depression)
- Citizen Kane (American Dream, media)
- Saving Private Ryan (WW2)
- American Experience: Crash of 1929 (financial crisis 1929)

**Civil War**

- North & South (mini-series, Civil War)
- Lincoln (President, Civil War)
- Glory (Civil War)
- Gettysburg (Civil War)
- Gone with the wind (Civil War; melodramatic)

**American Independence / Discovery**

- The Patriot (American Independence)
- Benjamin Franklin - PBS Documentation
- 1776 (Musical about the Declaration of Independence)
- 1492 (Christopher Columbus)
- Alistair Cooke's America (an overview of history from its beginnings to the 1970s)

## **Great Britain**

### **Politics / the Royals**

The Deal (Tony Blair, Gordon Brown)  
The Queen (Royals, Tony Blair)  
[The Special Relationship (Tony Blair / Bill Clinton Movie) planned]  
Love actually (Prime Minister; US-GB relations)  
Enigma (1940s, Great Britain vs. Nazi-Germany)  
Churchill  
Gathering Storm (Winston Churchill)  
The Iron Lady (Thatcher)  
The King's Speech (Speech impairment, King George)  
Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (espionage, 1970s, Cold War)

### **Immigration**

Bend it like Beckham (Immigration, Indian)  
East is East (Immigration, Indian)  
Bhaji on the Beach (Immigration, Indian)  
Just a kiss (Immigration, Pakistani)  
Monsoon wedding (Immigration, Indian)  
My beautiful laundrette (Immigration, Indian)  
My son the fanatic (Immigration, Islam)

### **Literature**

About a boy (contemporary classic)  
Braveheart (Scotland)  
1984  
Animal Farm

### **Society**

Billy Elliot (History: 80s)  
The full Monty (Industrial decline; 80s)  
Brassed off (History: 90s)  
Upstairs, Downstairs (class system, tv series, turn of the century)  
Downton Abbey (class system, tv series, turn of the century)  
Gosford Park (class system, crime)  
The Forsyte Saga (class system, turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century)

### **Northern Ireland Conflict**

In the name of the father (Northern Ireland Conflict)

### **History**

Simon Schama – A history of Britain (an extensive overview of Britain's history from 3.000 BC up to today)

## **Commonwealth**

### **Australia**

The long walk home (Racism)

### **Africa**

Cry freedom (Racism)

Amistad (Racism)

African Queen (missionaries)

### **Canada**

Bollywood Hollywood (Toronto, culture clash, Indian girl)

### **India**

Gandhi (India, Commonwealth)

Bride and Prejudice (Bollywood musical)

Lagaan (Victorian India)

A passage to India (India, Commonwealth)

## Other topics

### Shakespeare

Shakespeare in Love (Shakespeare, Britain 16<sup>th</sup> c.)

Elizabeth I (history with certain liberties)

Elizabeth I – the golden years (history with certain liberties)

A Midsummer Night's Dream (1999) (comedy; semi-classic interpretation)

Hamlet (2000) Ethan Hawke (tragedy; modern interpretation)

Hamlet – Brannagh (tragedy; close to the text, mid-modern interpretation)

Hamlet – Mel Gibson (tragedy; classic interpretation)

Romeo & Juliet – Zeffirelli (tragedy; classic)

Romeo & Juliet – Baz Luhrmann (tragedy; modern)

Richard III (history play; rather modern)

Michael Wood - In Search of Shakespeare (an attempt of a biography)

### **Global Topics / Technology / Environment**

1984 (fashistoid state)

The Hunger Games (fashistoid state)

Dr. Strangelove (A-Bomb)

Oppenheimer – the father of the a-bomb (A-Bomb)

Manhattan Project (A-Bomb)

ReGenesis (biotechnology, terror, genetic engineering; TV-series)

The Island of Dr. Moreau (Genetic engineering)

Gattaca (Genetic engineering)

The Omega-Man (Bio-weapons)

And the band played on (discovery of the AIDS-Virus)

Enemy of the state (NSA, Internet, identity)

The Net (Internet, identity)

eXistenz (computer games)

Startup.com (documentary, computers, dot-com bubble)

Startup (computers)

Pirates of Silicon Valley (Microsoft / Apple)

jObs (Apple)

Steve Jobs (Apple)

Outsourced (Globalisation)

Let's make money (Globalisation)

Darwin's Nightmare (Globalisation)

Workingman's Death (Globalisation)

Let's make money (Globalisation, banks)

The Story of Stuff (Globalisation, only on youtube)

Hugo Cabret (history of the movies)