**GCSE Media Studies**

**TV Comedy**

**The Big Bang Theory**

Season 5 Episode 3 – The Pulled Groin Extrapolation

Season 5 Episode 4 – The Wiggly Finger Catalyst

HUMOUR

Running jokes

* Raj can’t speak in front of women so whispers to Howard in front of Bernadette.
* Sheldon has little social skills and acts in a childish manner. He likes toy trains and doesn’t drive so his friends have to drive him places.
* Howard is very immature throughout the episodes. He likes magic tricks and still lives with his mum. ‘Does your mother always cut your meat for you?’
* Having interests that identify them as being very geeky. For example playing Dungeons and Dragons board game.

Visual humour/slapstick

* Amy draws a moustache on her finger to try and be funny at the wedding.
* Dancing to the Birdy Song at the wedding.
* Sheldon does a karate chop on Leonard’s neck.

Use of props/costumes

* The lightsaber used by Howard. This identifies him as having an interest in stereotypical geeky things, but also that he is quite childish.
* When Amy goes to the wedding she is very naïve about what to wear. For example, the corsage. This is traditionally worn at prom, but she wants to wear it to the wedding.

Saucy Humour/Innuendo

* Sexual jokes are funny as they are based on Amy’s inexperience.

Characters

* The four main male characters are stereotyped as geeky nerds. They all work within the field of science and don’t have much luck with women or relationships.
	+ Sheldon – Very intelligent, but lacks social skills. This leads to him being in situations that are amusing for the audience. For example, not wishing to accompany his girlfriend to the wedding.
	+ Leonard – Fits the stereotype of a nerd. Witty responses towards Sheldon’s behavior are amusing for the audience.
	+ Raj – can’t speak in front of women because he is too shy. He is a lonely character looking for love, but this leads him into humorous situations.
	+ Howard – Quite immature, but always looking for a relationship. Fits the stereotype of a nerd but thinks of himself as much cooler than the other characters.
	+ Penny – Lives across from Leonard and Sheldon. She is a pretty actress who works as a waitress. She isn’t as intellectual as the male characters but is much more socially aware.
	+ Amy – A female scientist who ends up dating Sheldon. She is socially awkward, which creates humour for the audience. For example, outstaying her welcome when in Leonard’s apartment.

Techniques

* Filmed in front of a live audience so laughing and clapping can be heard.

Format

* Each episode has a self contained storyline.
* Only 20 mins – can watch a whole episode in a short space of time. This can be used as a ‘filler’ for the audience as episodes don’t have to be watched in chronological order.
* There are very short scenes within each episodes that are split up by graphics of atoms.