



Skyfall

Director: Sam Mendes

Ratings info: moderate violence, infrequent strong language

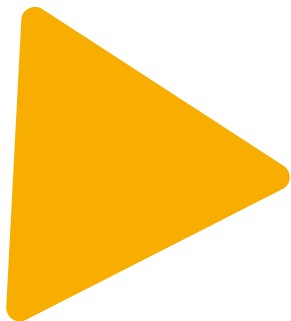


Synopsis

Skyfall is a James Bond film, starring Daniel Craig as agent 007. This time Bond is called into action to prevent the identities of secret agents around the world from being made public.

About the film

Skyfall is the 23rd film in the James Bond franchise and is the third to star Daniel Craig as fictional MI6 agent James Bond. It was directed by Sam Mendes and written by Neal Purvis, Robert Wade, and John Logan, and was the first James Bond film to be screened in IMAX venues. *Skyfall* won several awards, including two Academy Awards, two BAFTA Awards, and two Grammy Awards.





BBFC age rating and about the film

Skyfall was submitted to the BBFC for advice. The BBFC's advice service means that film distributors - in this case Sony - can submit an unfinished version of a film to the BBFC in order to understand what the likeliest rating of the film is going to be. Unlike other films in the *James Bond* franchise such as *Casino Royale* or *Spectre*, the BBFC did not advise that the distributor make any changes in order for them to achieve their preferred 12A rating.

At the time the advice screening took place, the BBFC knew that Sony wanted a 12A for the film because the content was submitted with a 12A category request. 'Category requests' are a fairly common part of the submission process and means that when a distributor is sending in a piece of content for classification, they can indicate what rating they are looking for. For advice viewings in particular, category requests are especially helpful bits of information as it means Compliance Managers can assess and identify what potential changes - if any - may be required in order to help a distributor achieve the rating they want for their film.

Like most *Bond* films, the key content issue in *Skyfall* is moderate violence. The 12A is established from the outset during the train sequence that features intense action such as hand to hand combat and gunfire, resulting in Bond being shot - and presumed dead - with brief sight of bloody detail. Other bloody moments are occasional but there is also sight of blood spray when a man is shot at close range, and blood and injury is also visible during fight scenes.

One of the key set pieces is a chase scene set on the London Underground. Although, from a classification perspective, the scene was considered to be quite comfortable at 12A in terms of detail, the original viewing team considered whether audiences would respond strongly to the scene, given increased sensitivities towards terrorist incidents in the UK since the events of the 7 July bombings in 2005. However, although the scene may recall terrible real life events, the sequence is within the context of an incredibly well known action thriller franchise that distances audiences from the 'reality' of the work. As a result, we concluded that viewers will broadly interpret the scene as one of entertaining action violence, rather than anything more disturbing.

Threat is also persistent throughout the film but a stand out scene is that in which Bond is tied up and verbally threatened. Another intense scene of threat is when Sévérine is tied up after being beaten off-screen and held at gunpoint. These sequences are disturbing but the overall tone of the film is not, and so we were happy with these scenes at 12A.

The injury detail in the film includes the sight of a wound on Bond's chest that he inflicts on himself in order to extract shrapnel from the wound. However, as Bond is doing this in an attempt to extract data, we considered this a brief moment of injury detail, rather than an issue of self-harm.

The language is mostly mild ('shit', 'bugger') but a single use of strong language ('f**k') requires a 12A rating.


There is a passing reference to a woman being trafficked into sex slavery as a child. The reference is brief and undetailed and acceptable at 12A.

Sex is a mild issue in the film and includes a couple of implied scenes of sex in which Bond is seen embracing women.

Discussion Points

- *Skyfall* is rated 12A. Do you agree with the rating and ratings info?
- We learn more about James Bond's personal history in the film - does this change your opinion of the character?
- In what ways does Bond's relationship with M change over the course of the film? How would you describe their relationship?
- *Skyfall* marks 50 years since the release of the first Bond film, *Dr. No* in 1962. In what ways does *Skyfall* pay homage to the previous films? In what ways does it differ?
- How are women represented in the film? Do you think the portrayal of women is positive? In what ways are women represented differently in *Skyfall* to previous *Bond* films?

Further Viewing

The Bourne Identity (Doug Liman, 2002) 

Atomic Blonde (David Leitch, 2017) 

Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (Tomas Alfredson, 2011) 