**point of view- (from which character is the story being told)**

The term point of view has two meanings when applied to film narratve: The first is a story element and refers to the point of view from which the narrative is presented. The second is a production element and refers to a camera shot which is taken from a characters point of view. This shot is normally abbreviated to POV.

In most narratives one characters point of view is usually priveleged over others. More is revealed about this character than others through such story and production elements such as narration, flashback, point of view shots and acting. The character will normally have more time on screen that others and will be shot undertaking more personal activities. When such a character is on the phone for example the audience interprets the conversation from the characters point of view, we see and hear the character and are able to make judgements about their behaviour and motivation. The audience is positioned to treat the character subjectively, whereas other characters are treated more objectively

Point of view may also be also having total knowledge; knowing everything): that is the director gives the audience greater knowledge than the characters. Have you ever sat on the edge of your seat and pleaded with a character in a film not to enter a darkened room where a bad man is waiting with a knife?- You can do this because you have an omniscient point of view- you know more than the victim

This is also known as Hierarchy of knowledge - often the audience has an omniscient point of view - knowing more plot information than all the characters. Generally the main character has the dominant point of view- but at times other characters know more than the main character- This range of knowledge is generally what makes suspense in film

Directors play with the information they give an audience, manipulating their knowledge to build tension and gives clues to possible narrative resolution. Sometimes these clues are wrong where the audience can be surprised to find that they have been led astray. The omniscient point of view is an excellent way to engage the audience

Another way in which point of view may be used in narrative is to express the point of view of the film maker about the subject matter, characters or themes of the film.

Question: From which characters point of view is the narrative presented in The Crow. Provide examples to support your response.

The Crow as a fantasy, thriller genre presents a narrative where the point of view of characters is exchanged from both Sarah and Eric’s perspective. Sarah represents the present, she exists in the real life world of Detroit as represented in the narrative and is used by the director as a narrator at several times in the film. In the opening sequence it is Sarah who provided the audience with information about the powers of the Crow to resurrect a soul to make wrong things right. –(add more here)When we are introduced to Sarah we learn that Eric and Shelley looked after her, She is a sweet innocent young girl who’s mother neglects her.

Eric represents the films fantasy element where he has been resurrected from the dead to seek retribution and justice upon those who brutally killed his fiancé Shelley and himself. When the audience is first introduced to Eric , it is through a series of close up shots ,of photographs revealing a handsome young rock musician who has been tragically murdered before his wedding day. Through a point of view shot we observe Eric leaving his grave, (resting place) after being resurrected by the power of the Crow. We observe that Eric is confused as he makes his way down dark alley ways back to his apartment accompanied by the Crow. Once inside Eric experiences a series of flashbacks that provide the audience with information about how he died. In this scene the audience clearly identifies the events being told through Eric’s point of view. As Eric sits by the mirror the drama costume mark triggers his memory where he wore the mask to surprise Shelly. The flashback shows the audience the deep love they had for each other and we begin to understand Eric’s pain and motivation to seek revenge on those responsible for the murder