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3

91472



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Level 3 English 2022

91472 Respond critically to specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), supported by evidence

Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Respond critically to specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), supported by evidence.	Respond critically and convincingly to specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), supported by evidence.	Respond critically and perceptively to specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), supported by evidence.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

Write ONE essay in this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

Do not write in any cross-hatched area (XXXX). This area may be cut off when the booklet is marked.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

Merit

TOTAL

06

ASSESSOR'S USE ONLY

INSTRUCTIONS

Write an essay on at least ONE **written text** that you have studied, in response to ONE of the statements below.

Give the details of the text(s) in the box on page 3.

WRITTEN TEXTS

Discuss the extent to which you agree with your chosen statement. Respond critically to the statement by making a close analysis of the text(s).

STATEMENTS (Choose ONE)

- ✓ 1. In a worthwhile text, we gain hope from the quality of the relationships in it.
- ✓ 2. Recognisable settings in a text make us reconsider the world we live in.
- ✓ 3. Characters become convincing by the way they deal with complex decisions.
- ✗ 4. Readers discover new truths when language is used in unexpected ways.
- ✗ 5. The lives of unusual characters give us meaningful perspectives on our own reality.
- ✗ 6. The most significant ideas in a text are revealed in the detail.
- ✓ 7. A text that matters challenges us to examine our own lives.
- ✗ 8. A good text has one key moment that leads to significant learning.

Written text type(s):*Tick (✓) your selection*

Novel



Short story



Print media



Non-fiction



Poetry/song lyric



Digital/online text



Drama script

Title(s): The RoadAuthor(s): Cormac McCarthy**PLANNING**

You should aim to write a concise essay of no more than 5–6 pages in length. The quality of your writing is more important than the length of your essay.

In your essay, discuss the extent to which you agree with your chosen statement. Respond critically to the statement by making a close analysis of the text(s).

Begin your written text(s) essay here:

Statement number: 3

In life, we are often faced by the simplicities of our complex society, but if the details were switched then we would truly ask ourselves about the dark side of human nature. In Cormac McCarthy's "The Road", 'the Man' becomes convincing through ~~his response to the now simple society~~ his ~~response~~ response to the complex choices of his simple society. In the complex decisions of seeing the other ~~way~~ ^{and taking} boy, meeting Ely and ~~meeting~~ ^{not taking} the thief, the Man becomes a convincing character at the dark side of human nature, but how even the worst can still hold an absolute goodness.

In a world such as this, we ask ourselves if we would value survival over all else, as the Man originally ~~shows~~ starts as the realistic survivalist. The Man and the Boy come across a town to which the Boy believes to see another boy, and tries to follow him. After stopping the Boy, the Man and Boy argue about ~~whether~~ ^{choosing whether} they should help him, ^{to which the Man disagrees,} the ~~Man~~ Man's response of "there is no other boy! Do you want to die? Is that what you want?" shows the type of character the Man starts as. We as an audience already know he is a survivalist, always trying to protect the Boy in the simple ways, but ^{choice of dialogue} this makes him more convincing. McCarthy writes as to discover a change in the Man, we can see the dark side of him coming through ^{in this choice}. To respond to your son in such a dark way

catches the ^{reader} ~~viewer~~ by surprise, however we realise that after living in this post-apocalyptic society or protecting the Boy for so long, a dark side is bound to start coming through. We realise that ~~we~~ in the Man's choice to not even look for this other boy, he has one job, as a parent protecting the Boy no matter who could be there. McCarthy wants us to constantly reflect on how we would make these same decisions, if we had a son would we let him follow something into a possible trap? ~~Yes~~ In such a scenario we realise that a dark side would have to come through to protect our son, as the good side of human nature brought up by our common everyday society ~~we~~ would likely get us killed. Everyone has a dark side, it is just important for us to understand that like the Man we must expose it at the right time and through such a scenario, the Man becomes more convincing as something we may do.

While dark sides of human nature must be controlled, as the ~~good~~ absolute goodness must also be ~~all~~ shown as it remains forever in our inert response, much like the Man with Ely. The Man and the Boy meet Ely, an old man wandering along the road barely surviving. The Boy asks his father to help Ely, and after some deliberation, he agrees. While this, much like the first choice, seems simple, it is the Man's simple society that makes this complex. The Man cannot spare resources for anyone as he has so little, and helping others would always lower ~~there~~ ^{his} chance of survival. The Man shows a large contrast from his beginning to end of meeting Ely. The Man refuses to talk to him, telling his boy "you can ask him," to giving him food and having a long chat about what life is and used to be like. This ~~we~~ makes the Man more convincing as we still realise he is simply a human, and

after seeing a helpless old man, his inert side would shure through ^{and choose} a cure. While we cannot know life in an apocalypse, we would still aim to follow how we were brought up; to help and talk to others and make them enjoy life. The Man is slowly becoming more unstable in his hiding of a dark side, but this does not stop someone from being good. McCarthy teaches us that no matter the situation, there is always hope and that we would never forget about how we were brought up. Humans will forever be humans, and if something had happened to someone innocent then of course we would help in the end, and that makes the Man more convincing.

In the end, no human could stay good forever in exposure to such a bad situation, and while a good may exist, the dark side of human nature will forever be there and will be released when the situation calls for it. Near the end of the ^{novel} ~~book~~, the Man and Boy's stuff gets stolen and after finding the thief, the Man instantly ^{decides to point} ~~points~~ his gun at the thief and asks for all theirs and the thief's stuff. During this exchange the Boy is in tears, "don't kill him... That's right don't shoot me, listen to your boy." The Man was pushed to the edge, ^{in this complex choice} ~~making~~ the thief to give everything and even leaving him naked in the middle of the road. It is here the Man has completed his transformation, becoming the most convincing character in how he ^{decides} ~~reacts~~ to such a ^{complex decision} ~~circumstance~~. After being trapped here for years, McCarthy convinces us that this is actually required, and those in this scenario without a dark side would have been left for dead. However combined with this, the Man ^{chose to opt} ~~decide~~ that he would not let himself be killed.

could not disobey his child or his own morals for ^{a choice that seemed simple but in the scenario was complex.} ~~no reason.~~

In his completion of his transformation, McCarthy asks how we would ^{choose} ~~react~~ for the final time. We understand that we all have a dark side, it is always just out there through the way we react to our current society. If put in his scenario, we would all react like the Man and a dark side would have to shine through in order for us to survive. We are truly convinced that we are all hiding something, and without the barriers of our society, something not so nice would prevail but our next response would always attempt to stop what could be.

Human nature has both a good and dark side, and the way in which the Man from Cormac McCarthy's "The Road" reacts to these simple yet complex decisions, truly make him convincing. We all see these choices as simple due to how we live, yet the choices become more complex as reactions ~~are~~ to such a dire circumstance. The Man has to choose his reactions to the complex choices of the other boy, El, and the thief, and it is in his choices do we learn how deep human nature is, and how people would react differently due to the circumstances it is in, and that is how he becomes convincing.

Merit Exemplar 2022

Subject	English	Standard	91472	Total score	06
Q	Grade score	Annotation			
3	M6	<p>The candidate has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • paid close attention to the question (in this case agreeing with it) • constructed an argument using three decisions to show how characters became convincing • offered supporting evidence for each complex decision • discussed how convincingness is developed through each decision • used transformation of character and the balance of dark / light to frame convincingness across all three moments discussed. 			