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91099



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

## Level 2 English 2023

### 91099 Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s), supported by evidence

Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s), supported by evidence.	Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s) convincingly, supported by evidence.	Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s) perceptively, 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.

**You should answer ONE of the essay questions in this booklet.**

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

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Merit

TOTAL 05

## TEXT DETAILS

Visual / oral text type

Visual / oral text type

Title

Title

Director / creator

Director / creator

## SELECTED QUESTION

Copy and paste the question you have chosen into the space below.

Analyse how the structure of the text fulfilled or ruined your expectations. "Structure" may refer to the order, organisation, or conventions of a text.

## PLANNING

Cousins 2021:

Written by Patrica Grace.

Missy, Makereta and Mata, symbolises by their colours, green for Mata red for Makereta and Missy with Blue

"I saw the Tanewha"

## ESSAY

Type your essay in the space below. You should aim to write a concise essay of no more than 750–800 words. The quality of your analysis is more important than the length of your essay. (The counter will change colour when you reach the recommended word count.)

Support the points you make with specific details from the text(s).

Cousins is a 2021 film directed by Briar Grace Smith and Ainsley Gardener, it follows the story of three Maori cousins and their journeys through life, with Makereta described as "The spoiled one", Missy "The hard working one" and Mata "The lost one."

Stripped away from her mother early in her life, and sent to a "home for decal-ate children" Mata is the sort of protagonist in the story, with us often seeing the world through her eyes, this is shown to us in the opening scene of the film, rolling hills and establishing shots of valleys, cuts to close ups of colour, red, blue and green dresses moving in the wind, with ethereal music playing in the background, the three cousins yet to be established are shown to us, with medium close ups on their faces emphasising gleeful expressions. This slow ethereal like opening is quickly juxtaposed by a harsh cut to the presumed future, we are shown an old lady, presumably homeless wondering the streets of Wellington, wearing a clearly green, but faded and tattered coat. We hear her reciting what seems to be a nursery rhyme at a crossing, as it ticks, "1 is for fun, 2 don't be blue, 3 find the time" and so on, this is a repeated motif in a sense throughout the film.

This structure of flashing forward and back is what fulfilled my expectations, it enhances Cousins character heavy narrative, driving the film forward and posing constant questions to the audience for the better, beside the opening few scenes another key example presented itself in the film, the penultimate scene Mata is shown wondering the streets again, in the same setting as the opening of the film, it is now day time however, she is shown again at the crossing counting in the same nersery rhyme style up from one, we then cut to Makereta the "spoiled one" walking the same streets as Mata and wearing a bright blue coat as appose to Mata freshly laundered coat, this continues cutting back and fourth until Mata crosses the road, its at this moment Makereta sees her, presenting herself to Mata as the spoiled one, we then cut to the past, the three much younger cousins are shown, swimming in a lake, with them diving under the water, respective colours wash over them, Mata is shown with a bright green light flowing past her, Missy with vibrant red, and Makereta with that same blue we saw her wearing in the last scene, emotionally we are taken on a journey from childhood to old age, enforcing in us a sense of connection, and togetherness even in these last two scenes, the film ends the same way as it started, the three of them running through the valleys, laughing.

Cousins does work to make its unique non linear narrative succeed, but it does have some short comings on its heavy reliance on assumption.

During the middle of the film, we are shown Matas descent into homelessness with her leaving her assumed home (we are never shown how she got this home) after a previous friend from the home for desolate children, dumps her toddler age child at her door for 6 months. Growing fond of this Child Mata seems happy and connected something we rarely see in her adult character, this is then taken away from her, as the child is picked back up by the mother some time later. We then cut to Mata angry and sad, having found connection in a child and then for her connection to be taken away, she leaves her home, with a shot shown of her wondering the streets, away from the static camera as she disappears in the distance. To me this scene perfectly encapsulates the short comings of such a reliance on non linear narrative, so many questions are asked that some of them are just too large and too key to the character development to not be answered, after this scene we cut to young Mata at her family home, I do see the attempt here to symbolise the importance of a home to a persons character, but to me this strange editing choice, doesn't pose a question that gets an answer, with the audience left to assume that she wandered her way to the streets, to be found 30 years later.

In conclusion, going into Cousins you expect a simple linear story about three Maori cousins and the trials and tribulations of their land and family dynamic, what you get however is much more engaging, a non-linear story that is heartfelt and makes you think about culture in a new way, with its quick cuts, call backs and great acting performances. Cousins pulls on your heartstrings, but does have its short comings in posing some questions that it just can't answer. I went in with low expectations but what sold it for me and what kept me engaged through a slow paced story, that does feel in a way a bit draggy, is its excellent editing and narrative structure, coupled with cousins that you care about by the end of the 110 minute run time.

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## Merit

**Subject:** English

**Standard:** 91099

**Total score:** 05

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
1	M5	Establishes a connection between the opening and closing segments, referencing the non-linear narrative quite convincingly. Demonstrates a reasonably thorough awareness through cutting between scenes. Effectively uses the closing section to convey the passage of time.

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Merit

TOTAL 05

8. Analyse how a challenging relationship was used to explore an idea.  
"Idea" may refer to character, theme, or setting.

### TEXT DETAILS

Visual / oral text type	<input type="text" value="Film"/>	Visual / oral text type	<input type="text"/>
Title	<input type="text" value="The King's Speech"/>	Title	<input type="text"/>
Director / creator	<input type="text" value="Tom Hooper"/>	Director / creator	<input type="text"/>

### SELECTED QUESTION

Copy and paste the question you have chosen into the space below.

8. Analyse how a challenging relationship was used to explore an idea.  
"Idea" may refer to character, theme, or setting.

### PLANNING

Idea: the importance of a positive relationship in persevering to become your true self.  
p1: first session and Wembley speech  
p2: Regent's Park  
p3: final speech

### ESSAY

Type your essay in the space below. You should aim to write a concise essay of no more than 750–800 words. The quality of your analysis is more important than the length of your essay. (The counter will change colour when you reach the recommended word count.)

Support the points you make with specific details from the text(s).

Relationships are essential for success in becoming who we were meant to be. In the film, *The King's Speech*, the director, Tom Hooper, explores this idea through Bertie and Lionel's relationship. Their friendship faces challenges which teaches the audience the importance of a positive relationship in persevering to become one's best self. We are taught of this through the development of Bertie throughout the film because of his relationship with Lionel.

At the beginning of the film, we see that Bertie has no self-confidence because he has a stammer. He is the Duke of York and doing a speech at Wembley Stadium. The pathetic fallacy of fog shows us that he is being prevented from seeing clearly who he is. Fog makes the colours of the scene dull which reflects the way that Bertie views himself as not being valuable or able to do his job properly. Bertie is unsuccessful in delivering his speech because he is not confident enough. The audience is disturbed by the quick scene change and we see that Bertie's wife is walking through thick fog to find a speech therapist who uses "unconventional and unorthodox" techniques. Hooper shows the audience that Bertie cannot see what is in front of him and he is being blinded from seeing who he is able to be. We should not look only at the present, but at what we are capable of doing in the future and we must push through difficulties in order to reach our goals. When Bertie goes to Lionel for the first time, Hooper shows the audience how Bertie "inhabits the silence" of his speech impediment. Hooper uses unbalanced framing of Bertie against a tattered wall, which is also in focus, to show the way that Bertie is deeply affected by his speech impediment and how isolated he is. Lionel is a commoner which makes their relationship challenging because of the wide social class gap in the 1930's. However, Lionel knows that in order to fix Bertie's stammer they must treat each other as equals. He says, "Please, call me Lionel," but Bertie is not comfortable with that. "I prefer Doctor," which Lionel replies with, "I prefer Lionel." This already shows us that they have different ways of looking at their relationship. The audience learns what the social class was like and is lead to appreciate that it is not so strict anymore. Lionel wants Bertie to become like family because he understands the importance of positive relationships in life. Hooper shows us this clearly when Lionel says, "How about Bertie," to which Bertie replies, "Only my family uses that." Lionel says that is "perfect" demonstrating that he wants their relationship to become very close. The nature of family of relationships is always being there for each other, being equals and being completely open and vulnerable. The audience is taught the importance of this in all our friendships and learns that we mustn't hide things from others if we are to have a positive relationship with someone. Lionel understands that they must have this for Bertie to be successful.



Hooper continues building on the idea of how positive relationships can lead to us becoming our best selves in the montage scene. Here, we see that Lionel and Bertie's relationship has become closer and they gotten through the initial struggle of the class divide. Hooper uses a montage to allow a lot of time to pass while demonstrating to the audience the positive impact of the relationship on Bertie. Lionel believes in Bertie and he knows that he is capable of success as king if he would believe in himself. Therefore, Lionel positively influences Bertie through their relationship to help him see himself for who he really is, rather than being blinded by the present situation. Hooper shows Lionel teaching Bertie various techniques to help with his stammer and then we see Bertie using them in a speech he must do at a factory. Hooper uses a close up shot of Bertie's feet as he "bounces over the p's" to show us that Lionel's techniques are working. Bertie now trusts Lionel, which is another very important part of a positive relationship. Bertie is now willing to try what he is learning. This teaches the audience that no matter how stuck we feel, there is always a way out. But sometimes we may need someone else to show us the way which requires trust. Trust is very important because it can lead a person to success but without trust, to destruction. Without this relationship, Bertie would never have believed that he was capable of being king, but Lionel's outside perspective and positive view of Bertie allowed him to start pushing through the metaphorical fog to become his best self.

Hooper continues building on the idea of the importance of positive relationships in the scene at Regent's Park. This scene reinforces how the class divide makes Bertie and Lionel's friendship challenging. At first, Hooper uses two shots of the two men to show that they are on the same page about Bertie becoming king because of his brother's scandal. But as the conversation turns into an argument, Hooper begins showing them in separate, representing the gap growing between them. Bertie begins to stammer more than he normally does with Lionel, reflecting the affect of their relationship on him. When their relationship was positive and stable, Bertie didn't stammer as much as he does in this scene. This shows the audience that when we have people close to us and helping us, we are much more stable as people and able to achieve a lot more than when we are on our own. Lionel continues to stand by Bertie and believe in him; "I'm just saying you could be king. You could do it." But Bertie doesn't want to believe in himself anymore and retorts with, "That is treason." Lionel shows Bertie that he knows fear is holding him back, "I'm trying to get you to realise that you needn't be governed by fear. What are you so afraid of?" Hooper combines this with pathetic fallacy of fog to show the audience that Bertie is afraid to try to become his best self because he fears what lies ahead. To become who we were meant to be, we mustn't always look at the risks involved in the journey, but we instead consider the risks of remaining as we are. We must have confidence to move beyond the present and perhaps look to someone for guidance on how to get to where we want to be. Bertie and Lionel sort out their relationship difficulties by clearing up their misunderstanding later in the film. Hooper teaches us that misunderstandings can lead to conflict in relationships, making it important to communicate our viewpoints clearly and be respectful towards other people's opinions. Lionel and Bertie don't do this when Bertie accuses Lionel of treason and it leads to the break down of their relationship. However, if conflict is dealt with correctly, it can be overcome and even healthy. Lionel makes Bertie realise his true good intentions and their relationship is strengthened again. Therefore, we can use misunderstandings to better our relationships and make them stronger. Misunderstanding must be overcome by communication and conflict can be used in beneficial ways if we make our intentions clear.

We see the way that Bertie is ultimately successful in his wartime speech at the end of the film. Hooper contrasts this speech with the one at Wembley Stadium to prove to the audience that it is his friendship with Lionel that got him this far. Lionel helps Bertie to relax by opening a window and he stays in the room with him while he does his speech. Hooper uses a close up of Bertie's speech to show us that he has written notes on it to help him, which is contrasted with the stark black lettering of the Wembley speech. We realise how far their relationship has come when Lionel says, "Forget everything else and just say it to me. Say it to me as a friend." Their relationship has gone through many tough spots and here we see the depth of trust and closeness that it has finally reached. Once they got past the difficulties of class and trust, their relationship allowed Bertie to be successful. Lionel helps Bertie as he does his speech by reminding of techniques he has learnt and how to form his mouth around certain words. Bertie completes his speech successfully, demonstrating how beneficial the relationship has been for him. The audience learns that through Bertie's perseverance and courage given to him through Lionel, he has become his best self. Hooper represents how Bertie has succeeded in moving forward from being isolated by his speech impediment by using pathetic fallacy. This scene is sunny and brightly coloured, with royal golds and reds reflecting Bertie's new view of himself. Lionel was the one who got him to see that way through becoming close like family to Bertie. We

see also that Bertie has a different attitude towards his stammer when Lionel says, "You still stammered on the 'w'." But Bertie is no longer bothered by it and replies with, "Had to throw in a few so they knew it was me." Rather than viewing his stammer as a bad thing, Bertie has learnt to accept it and see it as a part of himself. He is no longer defined by his stammer and embraces it as something he can work on. So, if we have a difficulty that seems impossible to overcome, we should seek help from someone we can trust and we should try to see the good side of it. Having a positive attitude is likely to lead to a positive outcome.

In The King's Speech, Hooper uses many techniques to show the audience the importance of trust and perseverance in relationships. We also learn that positive relationships can help us become the best version of ourselves. We must persevere through hard times when we don't believe in ourselves and have a positive attitude towards challenges. We may need someone to help us see the potential in our present situation to grow into people who are successful. If someone can see our potential and believe we are capable of reaching it, then we must trust them to help us. Trust is very important in relationships, as is clear communication. Misunderstandings can be used to strengthen relationships because they give us a better view of who the other person is and their true intentions. Positive relationships can lead to us becoming our best selves, so we must work hard to create a positive relationship and push through the difficulties that come along. Every relationship has its challenges, but if we can get through those, we will see that we can reach our potential through the support and trust in them. Positive relationships are vital for growing into our best selves.

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## Merit

**Subject:** English

**Standard:** 91099

**Total score:** 05

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
8	M5	The response initially presents a challenge, but veers into an exploration of how the relationship evolved. While this approach aligns well with the question and the candidate's connection to it, it demonstrates more depth in understanding the relationship aspect rather than the core idea.