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91099



910990



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

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SUPERVISOR'S USE ONLY

Level 2 English, 2017

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

2.00 p.m. Tuesday 21 November 2017
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.

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

Excellence

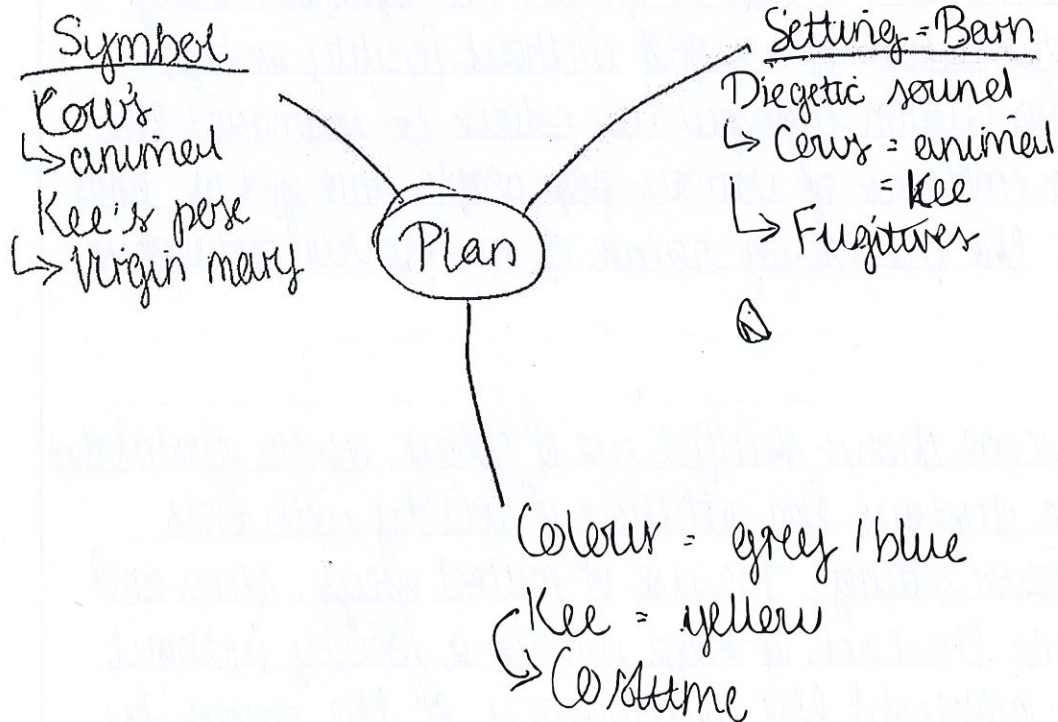
TOTAL

08

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Visual or oral text type(s):

Tick (✓) your selection

☒ Film☐ Drama production☐ Oral performance☐ Television programme☐ Graphic novel☐ Digital/online text☐ Radio programmeTitle(s): Children of MenDirector(s)/creator(s): Alfonso CuarónPrep
ColourSymbol
Sound**PLANNING (OPTIONAL)**

Colour

- White / grey → Ark of Arts → apathy
- ↳ elevated
- yellow → Kee → hope, unfamiliar, special
- grey / blue / black → lack of hope, fear, xenophobia

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

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

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Begin your visual or oral text(s) essay here:

Question number:

2.

Colour is regularly used in films to spark the interest of the viewer and add dimension to various settings or characters. However, it is only great directors who use colour in such a way that it adds further meaning to the film and extends ideas that would not otherwise be truly captivating to the audience. In the film "Children of Men", a dystopian story set in the near future of a world without fertility or hope, director Alfonso Cuarón manipulates colour to emphasize the attitudes or emotions of various ~~pop~~ people and groups, and to highlight the interesting nature of his female protagonist, Kee.

The opening scene shows skillful use of colour, as the desaturated colour palette displays the attitude of society with this dystopian British setting. The use of muted greys, blues and browns connote the lack of hope within a society without hope, and highlight the desperation of the passers-by within the bustling ~~to~~ London street setting. It is as if the world has been stripped of all colour, all passion and happiness, and all that remains is faded hopelessness. One of the few colours implemented is the classic red of the London double-decker buses, yet even that is faded and chipped, giving the appearance of all

society frozen and worn away by time. Without children, fresh young and growing minds, there is little hope or progress within the world of "Children of Men", as it seems that there is nothing to hope or progress for. Cuarón uses colour to set the tone for this dystopian society, and to subtly give a warning that is carried throughout the film. This society is so similar to our own, only more desaturated and colourless, as if to warn the audience that if our own society continues to make the bad decisions we currently are (xenophobia, pollution, racism, homophobia etc.) we will too be ~~drained~~ drained of hope, progress and colour, and our own setting will become as bleak as the London setting within "Children of Men".

The setting of the Ark of the Nots also uses colour to emphasize the themes of apathy and inaction. The whole building has a clinically white appearance, with stark white walls and crisp metal fixtures. This gives the Ark a modern feel, but also an air of loneliness or imprisonment, as if the choice to prioritise artwork over people has left society trapped, and that apathy to the plight of others is self-imprisoning. The artwork within the Ark (such as "Guernica" by Picasso, and "David" by Michelangelo) are also pieces that are devoid of colour. This suggests that without people to see it, art is drained of its meaning and purpose, and is reduced to just a poster tacked on a wall or a statue in an entranceway. When nobody is left to experience the pleasure

of art, as the British society within the film refuses to help those who are different nationalities, it is meaningless, and loses the "colour" or meaning that an artist puts in. Therefore, the drab whites and greys within the Ark of the Arts show how inaction will eventually lead to the crumbling of our own society. Putting materialistic things, such as art, money, land or resources, above the needs of people in peril renders all of these things useless, and drains them of their worth (their colour) as eventually nobody will be left to see or use them due to the poor choices of society.

By contrast, Cuarón makes the decision to highlight the female protagonist Kee during one of the pivotal moments of the film by using bright colours to show how special and interesting she is as a character. The decision to make her costume and bright yellow dress contrasts against the drab colour palette of the rest of the barn scene, and makes her subconsciously stand out to the viewer as she reveals her unique pregnancy. The pregnancy colour also connotes the hope associated with her fertility, a little used sentiment in the rest of the film, where society is desaturated and hopeless. The fact that she stands out visually also reflects her uniqueness as a character within the plot. She is a paradox to the "grey" British society: on one hand, she is a non-British citizen, a "fugitive", and therefore worth less than nothing to the government, yet her unique gift of life makes her incredibly special and priceless. This is an interesting

concept which could be easily paralleled in our own societies, with the refugee crisis and the Muslim ban in America. Many rich and developed nations refuse to accept citizens of countries who are in need due to civil unrest or terror. Cuarón uses the bright yellow to show how ignorant this sentiment is: each person, no matter their race, has something unique and valuable about them, and xenophobia is uncalled for when each person is interesting in their own way, just like Kee in "Children of Men".

Therefore, colour is used throughout "Children of Men" to further explore ideas within settings and characters, and to subtly make comparisons between the near-future society of dystopian Britain and our current world state. The use of desaturation in the opening scene shows the attitude of hopelessness and despondency in a society without growth, and serves as a warning for our own society if we continue to treat our world as poorly as we do. The clinical whites and greys of the Ark of the Arts highlight the folly and loneliness of materialism, how being apathetic to the plight of others in favor of material wealth will ultimately end in ever possession being meaningless when there is no one left to see them. In contrast, Kee's bright costume draws attention to the value of every human life, no matter what race or nationality, and how hope can be found even in hard times if only we make the right choices. Cuarón creates a complex and interesting film with his use of colour, but also uses it to

emphasize the messages conveyed by his settings and characters, leaving the audience considering the choices our own societies make and their implications long after they have finished the film.

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Excellence exemplar 2017

Subject:		English	Standard:	91099	Total score:	08
Q	Grade score	Annotation				
2	E8	<i>Children of Men</i> Thoroughly understands the text and the use of colour to establish the dystopian setting lacking hope, “self-imprisoning”, “drained of its meaning and purpose”. Nice integration of all aspects of the question and relevant detail for argument.				