Level 1 English, 2016

90849  Show understanding of specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), using supporting evidence

9.30 a.m. Thursday 10 November 2016
Credits: Four

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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.
In the poem "Dulce et Decorum Est" by Wilfred Owen, the author uses a range of different techniques to create an emotional response. For me, this poem makes me realise how truly horrific the war was and sad that the soldiers had to endure that for our country to be how it is today. Owen is able to express this as he had first-hand experience being at war, as well as in the Craig Lockhart war hospital which he arrived at in 1917. The main techniques that are used are personal pronouns, simile, alliteration, and hyperbole.

In the last stanza of the poem, Owen uses the personal pronoun "you" in the line saying "you too could pace behind the wagon that we flung him in". This helps to direct it specifically at the reader and asks them to put themselves into the setting of the war and watch as the hundreds of bodies are discarded. Owen then goes on to say "you would not tell with such high zest" wanting the reader to understand that war is not something to speak highly of and personally creates a remorseful response as I gain an understanding of how the soldiers fighting felt towards the war.
The second technique that I feel made the poem more emotive was similes. An example of this is "obscene as cancer". This line helped to make the poem more emotional to me specifically because a family member has died from cancer but also so many people as it is something that most people have been effected by in some way much like the way everyone was effected by war at the time. Cancer is something that kills or damages everyone affected much like the way war does.

Alliteration is another technique that is used in the poem in the line "the devil's sick of sin". Owen repeats the "s" sound throughout this line to change the tone of how it is said. Making whoever is reading it sound much more harsh and dangerous. This helps to show how the innocent soldiers were changed and made to kill people when sent to war and again cause the reader to respond sadly to the poem.

The last technique is Hyperbole used in the line "all lame, all blind:" in this line the author exaggerates by saying that all of the soldiers had lost their senses to add effect and although they were not all blind they were all effected in some way and the war is something that will stay not only with them forever but their family members as well. This helps to add emotion to the poem by showing that the what the soldiers experienced, many at such a young age. This makes me feel sorry for the soldiers and willfred owen specifically as at the age of 24 he had already experienced so many horrific things because of the war.
Wilfred Owen's poem *Dulce Et Decorum Est* helps the reader to grasp the idea of just how terrible the war was and make the reader feel emotional towards the conditions the soldiers were in and how hard it would have been. Personally, I found that Owen's poem was very influential and it made me feel a range of emotions from sad to thankful, especially knowing that Owen was so young and thought that war was evil but fought anyway. The techniques used including personal pronouns, similes, alliteration and hyperboles helped Owen to express his feelings towards war and help me as a reader to understand them.
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| 3 | M5          | “Dulce Et Decorum Est”  
This essay and the one following both identify techniques, discuss meaning then add that third layer of “emotional response”, but the responses differ in their degree of detail and support.  
This essay relies on more sweeping claims and the emotional response is far more generalised. |
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YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.
In the poem 'Dulce Et Decorum Est' written by war soldier and poet Wilfred Owen, several techniques were used which created an emotional response in me. These techniques were: a simile, imagery of the green sea of gas, listing and imagery of the poor conditions and modes of transport. The use of these techniques created an emotional response in me by the way that they describe and portray the brutality of modern warfare.

Dulce Et Decorum Est is a poem written by Owen in the First World War. It describes how they were viciously attacked, bombarded by gas bombs while on their way back to base camp. The consequence of the attack was a suffering soldier who had failed to fit his gas mask on in time, resulting in death.

Owen uses the simile "Yelling out and stumbling, and floundering like a man in fire or lime," to portray to me what the affect the gas had on the soldier who had been caught off guard. The man was 'floundering,' which helps me to understand what he suffering soldier's actions were like. The gas bombs which were dropped on these soldiers carried a very poisonous and corrosive gas called mustard gas.
corrodes or eats away at the bare skin of its victims, leaving devastating blisters all over. This created an emotional response in me as it lets me know just how brutal this event was and the destruction it made to Owen and his comrades. To have seen the effects of the mustard gas being consumed by this suffering soldier as it eats away at his lungs due to him gasping for air, would have been to unreal for me to even begin to imagine.

Another important technique Owen uses to create an emotional response in me was the imagery of the green sea. "Dim through the misty panes, as under a green sea I saw him drowning and thick green light, as under a green sea I saw him drowning." tells us that Owen was witnessing from his very own perspective. The 'misty panes' refer to the glass eye pieces installed in his gas mask. For Owen to be looking through these sight restricting items, along with the 'thick green light' of their torches desperately trying to scan through the gas, would have been a complete nightmare. My emotional response to this important technique used was that I felt as though I was seeing through the eyes of Owen himself and that it made me feel like I was as helpless helpless as Owen was. The 'green sea' portrays to me that the gas had created a vast sea as it spread out to envelop the soldiers. 'Drowning' is a negative connotation as because we associate drowning with a horrible way to die. But what's even worse than that is that the soldier was drowning in the mustard gas. The gas was eating away at his lungs which causes the soldier to start drowning in his own body fluids as a result of the gas...
Owen's use of the important technique of listing, "He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning," creates an emotional response in me as it vividly describes the cry for help portrayed by the suffering soldier. The word 'guttering' is made up of both stuttering and gurgling. Owen uses this word to portray sensory language to portray what the horrible sounds and sights which the suffering soldier emitted were like. These sounds were created by the soldier as he was choking on both his own blood and the mustard gas. My emotional response to these actions portrayed by the suffering soldier is that I feel sympathetic and foul as Owen describes greatly how the soldier suffered and what his vomit-viscous actions were like. I felt shocked as I imagined this limp and suffering soldier reaching out to me as if he were crying for desperate help and assistance, but all I could do was stare and do nothing just as Owen felt.

In conclusion, the important techniques Owen used in this poem created emotional responses in me as they all showed deep meaning behind them. The simile, imagery of the sea of gas and the listing helped me to create emotional responses as they showed because of the way they described the brutality of warfare, and that it indeed not right or fit to die for your country.
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| 3 | M6          | "Dulce Et Decorum Est"

Various techniques are identified early in essay. The basic situation is established, then the candidate uses a similar structure in subsequent paragraphs to discuss the techniques. We are left in no doubt that the candidate understands the poet’s intention within each technique.

The sincerity of each “emotional response” is apparent and goes deeper than superficial platitudes though perhaps not as sophisticated as an Excellence-level answer.