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91472



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 3 English 2023

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 (କ୍ଷେପିତ କ୍ଷେତ୍ର). This area will 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

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. The strengths of a character are revealed in the way they deal with their own flaws.
2. Convincing settings help us to understand the key message of a text.
3. We see our world more clearly in a text that uses effective symbols.
4. The key relationships in a text take us on a hopeful journey.
5. Changes that take place between the start and end of a text help us to understand significant ideas.
6. Powerful lessons in a text can be found in unlikely places.
7. The skilful use of language in a text reveals ideas that enlighten the reader.
8. The characters who matter most in a text are those who challenge our beliefs.

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

Novel

Short story

Print media

Non-fiction

Poetry/song lyric

Digital/online text

Drama script

Title(s): _____**Author(s):** _____**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: _____

The skilful use of language in a text reveals ideas that warn, not enlighten, the reader. *The Crucible*, written by Arthur Miller, is set in the 17th Century in Salem during the infamous witch trials and hunts. Miller uses skilful use of language in the text, such as allusions and symbolism, to reveal ideas that warns the readers about the dangers of blind belief. Blind belief, although a seemingly hard trap to fall into, is an issue relevant to our society. Miller wrote *The Crucible* as a response to the HUAC, House Un-American Committee, to warn readers, and ultimately society, that blind belief is dangerous because it can blind our sense of reason, and can cause harm.

The author uses allusions and symbols to show that blind belief causes people to be blind to obvious truths. In a scene where old Rebecca Nurse, a "virtuous woman", is being accused by Hale, an investigator of the witches, he brings up the story of the origin of the devil from the Bible. He argues that "even God thought the Devil beautiful in heaven before the fall". Hale alludes to the origin of the devil to draw a crazy parallel between Rebecca Nurse and the Devil which eventually becomes the evidence to sentence her death. Miller uses this clever allusion to show how the people of Salem become blind due to strong, yet blind belief in scripture. Despite the reputation of a "virtuous woman" that is cultivated over her lifetime, it was easily disregarded by the story of the devil and sadly used to even send her to her death. This idea of blind belief becomes known to us through this allusion and it warns us to question the things we blindly believe that take away our sense of rationality and reason. Later in the play, another woman, Elizabeth Proctor, is accused of witchery over the possession of a poppet. When another woman is found with a similar needle in her stomach to the doll, accusations are raised. Furthermore, Elizabeth exclaims "what is the significance of a poppet!" to further emphasize the craze surrounding the basis of the accusation. The poppet is a symbol used by Miller similarly show the lack of clear judgement of the people in Salem. The poppet is symbolic of the innocence of children yet it is crazily compared to a demonic effigy. The author reveals this unreasonable logic that makes clear how blind belief can cause people to think crazily. Like Rebecca, this injudiciousness brings Elizabeth to the jail just because of the possession of a children's toy. What makes blind belief particularly troubling is that anything is true if the basis is that it cannot be proven otherwise. Since "witches exist" and that it cannot be proven otherwise, the people of Salem become paranoid to the point that can cause the death of people who are associated with virtue, and are simply connected to a children's toy.

Not only can blind belief cause the death of people, but it also kills the nature of a person; it kills who they are because of a strong belief, and makes them immoral. The title of the play itself is a clever play of language used by Miller. A crucible is a container which holds substances that change their state under extreme heat. In the context of the play, the heat is the hysteria caused by the blind belief in witches. Like how a substance changes their physical state, people begin a change in their state as a person. This change in person happens to everyone in Salem, but an example

is Betty Parris, the eight year old daughter of Reverend Parris. Betty becomes afraid of being associated with attempts of witchery and so like the other girls, turns into the victim and plays the accuser. Despite being a young girl, currently in childhood, she plays a big role in being sending other 'witches' to their inevitable deaths. Miller uses the title, the crucible, to show the container, Salem, changes the state of every person under the extreme yet crazy belief in witchery. It reveals to us how easily and drastically a person can change. Miller warns us to consider our own lives and to question the things which we believe and whether they have strayed us from the person we are. Later, in a climactic scene, where Abigail, the main accuser is about to get caught, she claims the sight of a "yellow bird" that is the "spirit of Mary Warren tormenting her". The yellow bird is another symbol used by Miller to express that blind belief is a cowardly thing to hide behind and makes people easily manipulable. The sight of the yellow bird convinces the judges and sadly the death of Mary Warren. The "yellow" of the bird is connotative of cowardice because of how you take advantage of the blind belief of people. Lastly, Hale shouts "Pontius Pilate won't let you wash your hands of this", when an inevitable decision for the death of another accused witch. Again, Miller makes use of another effective religious allusion in the text to reveal how blind belief can negatively change a person. Pontius Pilate is a figure in the bible, that allowed the crucifixion of Jesus despite already acknowledging his innocence. Miller is creating a parallel between Pontius Pilate and the people of Salem and how they do know the craziness surrounding witches yet they choose to be compliant to make themselves feel safe. It reveals this idea that warns us to look and hold strong the truth and to not be swayed by blind belief. Question our beliefs and rules and see clearly for ourselves whether they are of harm to others and obstructing our sense of reason.

Blind belief is a very relevant thing in our society today, particularly because of the adamant growth of technology and consequently information, unknown to be false or true. In addition to that, religion is a blind belief that people all over the world choose to believe in despite a lack of physical evidence. Although blind belief may not be as extreme to condemn another to death, it still strikes as a strong warning in the 'Crucible' from Miller that we should question our beliefs and information we hold.

Merit

Subject: English

Standard: 91472

Total score: 06

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
7	M6	<p>Statement: 7</p> <p>Written text: <i>The Crucible</i> (Arthur Miller)</p> <p>The candidate convincingly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• shows how careful use of language, in the form of allusion, symbolism, and a metaphorical text title, can reveal ideas about the process and consequences of blind belief• provides appropriately selected evidence• explains the link between evidence and argument in some detail.