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91098



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

## Level 2 English 2024

### 91098 Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), supported by evidence

Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), supported by evidence.	Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s) convincingly, supported by evidence.	Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied written 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.

Do not write in the margins (//////). 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



## Page 1

### WRITTEN TEXTS



Remember that this is the **written texts** essay



and **NOT** the visual / oral texts essay!

#### INSTRUCTIONS

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

#### QUESTIONS (Choose ONE)

- Analyse how the setting helped you understand one or more characters.  
*"Setting" may refer to physical places as well as social and historical contexts.*
- Analyse how symbolism deepened your understanding of an important theme.
- Analyse how the structure of the text revealed the author's purpose.  
*"Structure" may refer to the order, organisation, or conventions of a text.*
- Analyse how a character's choices inspired action.
- Analyse how a turning point enhanced your understanding of one or more ideas.  
*"Ideas" may refer to character, theme, or setting.*
- Analyse how language features helped you read beyond the lines of the text.
- Analyse how ideas in the text helped you see the world with fresh eyes.  
*"Ideas" may refer to character, theme, or setting.*
- Analyse how the author's purpose was revealed through a character's actions.

#### TEXT DETAILS

Written text type

Written text type

Title

Title

Author

Author

#### SELECTED QUESTION

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

7. Analyse how ideas in the text helped you see the world with fresh eyes.  
*"Ideas" may refer to character, theme, or setting.*

## PLANNING

quotes/evidence:

1. "everything was beautiful and nothing hurt" - billy pilgrim
  2. "i'm afraid of the things I may say when I'm not myself." - billy pilgrim
  3. "Theres nothing intelligent to say about a massacre, everybody is supposed to be dead and never say anything or never want to say anything ever again. It's supposed to be quiet after a massacre, and it always is, except for the birds, and what do say say? things like 'poo-tee-weet'? - Kurt Vonnegut
  4. "why you? why us for that matter? why anything? because the moment simply is."
  5. "one of the main effects of war, after all, is that people are discouraged from being characters" - Kurt Vonnegut
  6. "I know you're a pacifist, but you must not be passive about it." - Edgar Derby.
  7. coffin shaped wagon. (billy)
  8. "Stolen a teacup from the catacombs, he was arrested...tried and shot." - vonnegut
  9. "you'll pretend you were men instead of babies, you'll be played in the movies by Frank Sinatra or John Wayne or some other of those glamourising, war-loving, dirty old men" - mary o'hare
  10. "By god, when he gets out of here, he's going to owe his life to the musketeers." - roland weary
  11. "when billy saw his means of transportation, he burst into tears, he hadn't cried about anything in the war." - vonnegut
  12. "all moments, past, present and future, have always existed and always will exist" - vonnegut.
- themes - fate, free-will, war and death, trauma, absurdity of war, complexities of existence, humor and horror, irony.

7. Analyse how ideas in the text helped you see the world with fresh eyes.  
 "Ideas" may refer to character, theme, or setting.

Intro - opening quote: "everything was beautiful and nothing hurt." - vonnegut, a contradictory quote about the harsh realities of the novel and war itself contrasted with the yearn for peace and how they can co-exist.  
 3 main points; 1. trauma + absurdity of war, 2. war, 3. fate + free-will

para 1: trauma + absurdity of war

ex. 1 = "you'll pretend you were men instead of babies, you'll be played in the movies by Frank Sinatra or John Wayne or some other of those glamourising, war-loving, dirty old men" (mary o'hare)  
 - romanticizing war, her feminist perspective allows emotion to be brought in as a factor, reminders that real people are still suffering from wars effects, insensitive, desensitisation.

ex. 2 = "one of the main effects of war, after all, is that people are discouraged from being characters" - Kurt Vonnegut. - dehumanization, loss of individuality, how important it is that everybody is able to present themselves how they want, LGBTQIA+???

para 2: war and death

ex.1 = 2. "i'm afraid of the things I may say when I'm not myself." - billy pilgrim, desensitisation, ptsd, ongoing effects.

ex. 2 = "Theres nothing intelligent to say about a massacre, everybody is supposed to be dead and never say anything or never want to say anything ever again. It's supposed to be quiet after a massacre, and it always is, except for the birds, and what do say say? things like 'poo-tee-weet'? - Kurt Vonnegut  
 - how incomprehensible war events are, phylisophical (not everything needs to have an answer), limits of language, bring in wider world evidence (gaza, afganistan, america election).

para 3: fate and free-will

ex. 1 = "why you? why us for that matter? why anything? because the moment simply is." - tralfamadorians  
 ex. 2 = "all moments, past, present and future, have always existed and always will exist" - vonnegut.  
 - trying to find understand/comprehend life is futile because the universe JUST is.  
 - see world with fresh eyes: don't take everything too seriously, what will be will be, good mindset etc.

conclusion - one more short piece of insight or evidence.

## 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).

B I U     

"Everything was beautiful and nothing hurt." A contradictory quote by main protagonist, Billy Pilgrim, presenting the harsh realities *Slaughterhouse-Five* represents with the yearn for peace co-existing together. *Slaughterhouse-Five*, a semi-autobiographical, anti-war novel written by Kurt Vonnegut during the Vietnam war. Exploring themes of time, fate and free-will, the absurdity of war, complexities of existence, war and death, irony and humour and horror, *Slaughterhouse-Five* follows the non-linear life of Billy Pilgrim before and after the infamous Dresden bombing. *Slaughterhouse-Five* became a instant classic because of the novels ability to make the audience question fate, free-will and the search for meaning amongst chaos as Vonnegut beautifully blurs the lines between fantasy and reality. During this essay I will discuss how the themes of this novel pushed me to see the world with fresh eyes, with firstly, the absurdity of war and how it has become glamorised, secondly, the theme of war and death, and finally, fate and free-will.

War films have been a steady genre for over 60 years now, but have they gone too far? In the first chapter of *Slaughterhouse-Five*, is a recount of real life about author, Kurt Vonnegut, going to visit his old war friend Bernard O'Hare. During this visit he brings up his idea to write a book about his life and experience in World War II. Bernard's wife, Mary O'Hare is a feminist and passionate person, as she overhears this conversation she explains her perspective on Vonnegut's original idea, "You'll pretend you were men instead of babies, you'll be played in the movies by Frank Sinatra or John Wayne or some other of those glamorising, war-loving, dirty old men" Another example of how absurd war is, is later on in the novel when Edgar Derby, a loving, middle aged, family man expresses, "one of the main effects of war, after all, is that people are discouraged from being characters" These quotes show how romanticised and dehumanised war has become. That making a film or a book and completely missing out the real and raw effects of war is deeply insensitive and morally wrong. Mary O'Hare's character allows us to take on a different perspective and focus more on how the ex-soldiers would feel knowing their story didn't seem to matter, only how successful and money earning the book and movie would be. She succeeds in her attempt to educate Vonnegut as he promises to name the novel 'the Children's Crusade' as a tribute towards Mary to not glorify war. Vonnegut's quote adds onto this theory by insinuating that individuality is lost during war and to continue that after is unfair. This theme has allowed me to look at my world and analyse further how different people would be affected by different actions, within people in my school, adults and different laws.

"I'm afraid of the things I may say when I'm not myself" Says Billy Pilgrim. This quote directly describes the feeling of not being able to control your mind after extremely traumatic events, (such as war). The theme of war and death in this book is one of the most prominent and obvious themes, this is also shown through Vonnegut's narration throughout the book. One quote that sticks out is "Theres nothing intelligent to say about a massacre, everybody is supposed to be dead and never say anything or never want to say anything ever again. It's supposed to be quiet after a massacre, and it always is, except for the birds, and what do say say? All there is to say is things like 'poo-tee-weet?'" Vonnegut tends to insert himself into the novel by switching to first person from third person. This is to validate his claims, as if to say, I was there, that was me, this is real. The quote represents how incomprehensible events like this are, especially during war. It highlights the limits of language felt afterwards ("poo-tee-weet"), that speechless feeling you get because you cannot begin to understand the sheer violence you've just faced. This heartdropping emotion can be felt in todays society as women, we are getting our rights stripped away once again in many countries. The new laws in Afganistan, restricting women from speaking in public, looking at a man that is not either related or their partner, or the Roe v Wade abortion laws being overturned in America. These real world examples are evidence that the themes seen in the novel are still able to be mirrored into our world today.

Does everything happen for a reason? Can we control the events in our lives or is the universe and life itself predetermined? *Slaughterhouse-Five's* theme of fate and free-will is seen stronger throughout the later stages of the novel, with the alien, Tralfamadorian, characters making readers question the way of life. "Why you? Why us for that matter? Why anything? Because the moment simply is." said by the Tralfamadorians, capturing that uncertain feeling of what is capable of happening and what is in our hands. Vonnegut also displays this feeling as he says "All moments, past, present and future, have always existed and always will exist." This also exemplifies the theme of fate and free-will, letting us question if fate exists or whether each event was always going to occur. Fate and free-will is a intense topic to unpack, these quotes along with the theme have made me switch my mindset onto "what will be, will be." I believe this is a healthier mindset than to be overthinking each detail of life or a certain world event. However it also made me wonder whether or not we, as a human race can control anything. For example, climate change is a fast growing issue, is it really possible to change the world and come out the other end in a positive way, or has however the ending will play out already been determind?

Analysing *Slaughterhouse-Five* has enabled me to relate to the emotions presented during the novel laced inbetween the heavy themes and look at our world in a different light. Sharing that heartdropping feeling at times with the characters in the novel, thinking on my lifes events and what the future could hold. Overall, the themes of *Slaughterhouse-Five* were a rollercoaster, much like our worlds decisions today. Thinking back on the novels messages and themes in relation with todays world, all I could think to say was; poo-tee-weet.

1060 WORDS / 800 RECOMMENDED

## Merit

**Subject:** English

**Standard:** 91098

**Total score:** 06

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
Seven	M6	A succinct and convincing answer. The candidate understood the purpose with solid analysis and reflection. Evidence and details were woven throughout and showed familiarity with the text. There was a lack of coherency between ideas which affected the attempts to form relevant links in a modern context. More discussion would be needed to elevate the content of the response to a higher grade.