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91472



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

## Level 3 English 2025

### 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.**

If you need more room for any answer, use the extra space provided at the back of 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.**

**Excellence**

**TOTAL 07**

## Page 1

### WRITTEN TEXTS

#### INSTRUCTIONS

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

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. Characters who behave badly make us think deeply.
2. Changes that take place in a text teach us valuable lessons.
3. Relationships that are challenging lead us to important discoveries.
4. Interesting settings encourage us to re-examine our own environment.
5. Carefully crafted language provokes new understandings.
6. Writers develop important ideas in order to critique society.
7. The fate of heroes helps us understand the world.
8. Effective symbols communicate significant ideas.

#### TEXT DETAILS

Written text type

Title

Author

Written text type

Title

Author

#### SELECTED QUESTION

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

Writers develop important ideas in order to critique society.

#### PLANNING

Power and control

- If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face - forever.

- Power is in tearing human minds into pieces and putting them together into shapes of your own choosing.
- Men are infinitely malleable.
- He became a mouth that uttered, a hand that signed, whatever [they] demanded of him.

#### Manipulation of truth and language

- Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past.
- Freedom is the freedom to say that two plus two makes four.
- 2+2=5
- It is impossible to see reality except through the eyes of The Party.
- All history was a palimpsest, scraped clean and reinscribed as often as necessary.

#### Love and rebellion

- Their embrace was a battle, their climax a victory. It was a blow struck against The Party.
- We are the dead.
- Do it to Julia! Not to me!
- He loved big brother..

## ESSAY

Type your essay in the space below. You should aim to write a concise essay of no more than 800–900 words. The quality of your writing is more important than the length of your essay. (The counter will change colour when you reach the recommended word count.)

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).

B I U     

George Orwell once said "good prose should be transparent, like a window pane". A text should be the key to unlocking the realities of the world, realities that we may not necessarily like. Nothing supports this statement more than his dystopian novel, *1984*. His novel, which follows the journey of Winston Smith and his attempts to navigate life in a totalitarian world, serve as a warning to society about the dangers of totalitarianism. The ideas of power and control, manipulation of truth and language, and love and rebellion act as the main catalyst of the delivery of this warning. As such, these ideas, which are based on Orwell's experiences in the Spanish Civil War, not only warn, but critiques the society of today and the future. If we are not careful, life as we know it may become like that in *1984*.

Orwell's development of power and control in *1984* critiques the violence of totalitarian societies around the world. The absolute authority that Big Brother and The Party exercises over Oceania limits the freedom of individuality. The fear factor in everyone, including Winston, ensures an obedient population. Room 101, which is the room where people are tortured to conform, strips people of safety and comfort. Instead they become "a mouth that uttered, a hand that signed, whatever [The Party] demanded" of them. As such, Orwell argues that power does not lie in popularity. It lies in a fearful society. Just as Orwell says, power is in tearing human minds into pieces and putting them together into shapes of your own choosing. Torture, as seen in Room 101, hacks the brain into supporting something that shouldn't be supported. For example, while Emmanuel Kant's Theory of Absolutism states that some actions are absolutely wrong, totalitarian societies force people to believe that this is not the case. It is okay to turn someone into an "unperson". Or, in the case of Ugandan dictator Idi Amin, it is okay to marginalise the Indian population in Uganda. As long as the power of the leader remains, there is nothing that is morally wrong. The theme of power and control, which is encapsulated in Room 101, critiques the violence that authoritarian leaders around the world exert. Amin further exemplifies this by torturing his people. By carefully cultivating rumours about what he has done, he spreads fear, and therefore obedience. This has clear parallels to the world that Orwell warns. As such, his prediction of future society is true: "If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face - forever".

The manipulation of truth and language evident in *1984* critiques the way totalitarian regimes around the world use propaganda to influence their people. Orwell says in the novel "Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past". This chilling quote underlines how Big Brother, as well as other dictators, change history to align with The Party's idea of truth. For example, in Oceania, basic numeracy does not exist. Since The Party claims that 2+2=5, all citizens must believe this as well. This hijacks any self-thought that Winston may have had, so while he may think that the only safe space is inside his head, The

Party has managed to eavesdrop and manipulate this as well. Just as the text says, "it is impossible to see reality except through the eyes of The Party". By describing a world in which every thought and word is a form of propaganda, Orwell is critiquing the manipulateness of the dictators of the world. An example of this is the Kim Dynasty in North Korea. Despite firing the first shot in the Korean Civil War, the nation maintains that South Korea were really the aggressors. Even though fact is not on their side, their maintenance that South Korea instigated the war forces people to believe that the Kim Dynasty were right. After all, how can the people of North Korea know otherwise? The similarities between North Korea and Oceania clearly underline Orwell's warning and critiqueness of the world. Just as Orwell says, "all history was a palimpsest, scraped clean and reinscribed as often as necessary".

Finally, the idea of love and rebellion, as shown through Winston and Julia, acts as a critique of how totalitarian regimes eliminate all feelings. Only the feeling of support to Big Brother is allowed. Winston's romance with Julia serves as an attempted rebellion against The Party. The emotional connection they feel with one another is a threat to fascism, for it promotes individual feeling. As such, "their embrace was a battle, their climax a victory. It was a blow struck against The Party". However, the ever-watching inner Party members discover their affair, further showing the reaching power fascism can have. The love that one has for someone else is arguable the strongest emotion one can have. However, Winston's betrayal of Julia in Room 101 ("Do it to Julia! Not to me!") signifies how even love can be broken by the totalitarian regime. Winston's end claim that "he loved Big Brother" symbolises the end of his failed rebellion. Orwell uses this to underline the dangers of emotional connection in totalitarian societies. Yet, why shouldn't we be allowed to express ourselves? The reverse psychology of the dangers of emotion employs readers to see why totalitarianism is a threat to their individuality. As well as serving as a warning to prevent future fascism, it is a critique of the totalitarianism that is already present in the world. The dictators of today ensure that emotion becomes non-existent. Only this way will they have unwavering obedience.

George Orwell's *1984* is one of literature's greatest dystopian novels. The ideas that are present, namely power and control, manipulation of truth and language, and love a rebellion, act as a catalyst to make readers think about the dangers of totalitarianism. Furthermore, it serves as a warning to prevent future fascist regimes and a critique of fascism already present. As such, *1984* serves as a transparent window pane into totalitarianism regimes of today.

**1008 WORDS / 900 RECOMMENDED**

## Excellence

**Subject:** English

**Standard:** 91472

**Total score:** 07

Grade score	Marker commentary
E7	<p>This response is a detailed, intelligent analysis of the novel which focuses very clearly on the statement given. There is a clear understanding of the negative impact of totalitarian control within the fictional society of <i>1984</i>, which is then linked directly to society in more modern times. The candidate makes insightful use of evidence, both from the text and the wider world, integrating it perceptively in order to support the hypothesis being explored. For a higher grade, a more developed discussion of how the novel specifically 'critiques' society, as opposed to a general analysis of similar social patterns, would have been valuable.</p>