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91925



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 1 English 2025

91925 Demonstrate understanding of specific aspects of studied text

Credits: Five

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Demonstrate understanding of specific aspects of studied text.	Demonstrate convincing understanding of specific aspects of studied text.	Demonstrate perceptive understanding of specific aspects of studied text.

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 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 05

Page 1

INSTRUCTIONS

Using examples and details from ONE or more text(s) you have studied, as well as your own knowledge and experiences, write a response to ONE of the questions below.

Discuss at least TWO specific aspects of the studied text(s) in your response. This may include, but is not limited to, aspects such as character, ideas, setting, plot, style, purposes, language features or techniques, and structure.

QUESTIONS (Choose ONE)

1. Explain how an idea in the text helped you connect with your world.
2. Explain how a character created an emotional response in you.
3. Explain how you were challenged by a conflict in the text.
4. Explain how language and / or stylistic features helped you understand an idea in the text.

TEXT DETAILS

Studied text type(s):

Title(s):

Author(s) / creator(s):

SELECTED QUESTION

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

2. Explain how a character created an emotional response in you.

PLANNING

RESPONSE

Type your response in the space below. The quality of your writing is more important than the length of your response. Support the points you make with specific details from the text(s).

B I U ☰ ▼ ☰ ▼ ↶ ↷ ©

Hidden Figures is a symbolic film directed by Theodore Melfi, it is about three African-American women who work at NASA in the early 1950s during the Jim Crow Law era. The film shows how Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughn and Mary Jackson go through racial and gender discrimination at work and how it affects their work life, making it much harder for them to grow and improve themselves with little opportunities. Despite the misogyny and discrimination, Katherine, Dorothy and Mary overcome those systemic barriers and prove themselves to everyone by having huge parts in the launch of American astronaut, John Glenn.

The character that created an emotional response in me was Katherine Johnson. Katherine in the film, proves time and time again that she is a force to be reckoned with. She shows her courage, intelligence and resilience throughout the film by never giving up and always showing that she isn't scared of any obstacles that come her way. For example, an obstacle for Katherine was her having to run to the bathroom outside of campus everyday since there were no coloured bathrooms for her in the main building, making it much harder for her to focus and work. Even with a hard time like that, Katherine never once complained or lacked on any work and always had a pure heart about it. A scene in the film that stuck out to me was when Katherine finally snapped and expressed how she had been feeling with the way everyone was treating her. A quote from the scene that stuck to me was, "And I work like a dog, day and night. Living off of coffee from a pot none of you wanna touch!". That specific quote stuck out to me because it shows how Katherine was fed up with all of the mistreatment and lack of support from her workmates because of her race and gender and from that quote alone, it shows how brave Katherine was to be able to stick up for herself knowing the consequences for it later.

Katherine created such an emotional response in me because it was something I related to and seeing such a powerful film about overcoming such systemic barriers and going from nothing to the top showed me that with resilience and courage nothing is impossible. To me, watching the scene of her finally expressing her feelings was a key part in the film. It was a key part in the film because despite her working in a mostly white environment during the Jim Crow era, she showed that she wasn't afraid of speaking up against prejudice and the mistreatment she was getting which makes it a remarkable scene. Another scene that made me empathise Katherine were her scenes with Paul Stafford, one of her workmates. In majority of their scenes together he shows his strong dislike for her and doesn't try to hide it. However, in the end their relationship gradually gets better and he no longer dislikes Katherine. Those scenes made me empathise Katherine because of how mean and cold Paul was to her. He never treated her as a human being and never considered her to be a friend or even a workmate but rather as competition.

In conclusion, Katherine Johnson is a strong, resilient and pure hearted woman who never lets anything bother her and always perseveres even with so many obstacles in front of her. Her character left a strong impact on me and made me realise that no matter what I do if I can't stand up against something that is not right then what makes me any better. Katherine proves herself to everyone time and time again and sets a great example to viewers of the film. I loved watching Hidden Figures as it opened up a new mindset for me and left a strong emotional impact on me. Not just with Katherine's character but with Dorothy and Mary also in mind, I had a new created a new mindset and changed my way of thinking. The film has left me inspired, emotional and it also showed the unfortunate history behind what African-Americans had to face and go through during the Jim Crow era. I hope the film Hidden Figures reaches a higher level of audience as it is an amazing movie showing true events of what so much people coloured people had to face then and even now. It is an educating film that speaks up on racism and the affects of segregation which is what makes it symbolic.

Merit

Subject: English

Standard: 91925

Total score: 05

Grade score	Marker commentary
M5	<p>The response has a consistent focus on Katherine Johnson as the key character. It has an explanation of how the character of Katherine Johnson in <i>Hidden Figures</i> creates an emotional response. An empathetic, emotional response is explained and supported with relevant evidence, such as the bathroom incident and Katherine's relationship with her colleague Paul Stafford. The response discusses multiple aspects of the text (character, ideas about racism and gender discrimination) and there is also reference to the historical context of the Jim Crow era. It shows clear engagement with the film's ideas and explains how these ideas create meaning and impact. To reach a more secure Merit, the response would need less repetition and more perception of how meaning is created.</p>