

Commentary on candidate evidence

The candidate evidence has achieved the following marks for this piece of the Portfolio - writing.

Candidate 1

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each section of this course assessment component. The candidate was awarded **14 marks**.

Genre: Discursive – persuasive Title: Alan Kurdi: A Political Chaos
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The candidate takes a committed and clear stance from line one: “With civil war raging across Syria...”. The word choice in the opening paragraph identifies the writer’s perspective on the political chaos - “leisurely time” contrasted with “refugees... innocent bystanders trapped...struggling people...who have nothing, literally nothing...”. The writer provides an extended metaphor of, “financial imbalance” with poor, desolate people ... a nagging overhead” to engage the reader in argument. The paragraph is not without flaws, but delivers a clear line of argument in the final sentence.

There is evidence of **judicious selection and use of source material** which demonstrates the candidate’s understanding and sustained thoughtfulness. The candidate’s expression of the central thematic concern is skilful: “... conditions similar to that of imprisonment, in transition camps that really hold no promise of transition.” This paragraph is summed up by an evocative image: “... just another pathetic arrow drawn from the EU’s quiver of distractions and shot in the sand.” The candidate’s skilful use of language is shown in the reference to “... a real game changer ...” as a comment on “... the proxy support ... to offer training...”. The use of the language of the political class against them is telling and subtle.

The candidate moves on to dissect the EU’s claim of unified action in an analytical and effective paragraph. Again language is used with style and skill: the imagery of “closed doors”; “Childhood games”; “infantile actions” can be seen to subtly point the way to the introduction of the death of the child, Alan Kurdi, which is given a paragraph on its own. This exemplifies the candidate’s ability to present **skilful shaping and sequencing which contributes significantly to impact**. The candidate exploits antithetical structures throughout paragraph four to highlight the difference between the refugees and their hopes and the responses of not just the politicians in Europe, but European citizens – and the reader: “Yes you probably thought about him for a few hours, maybe even stretched to a day.” This direct address is persuasive and creates a tone of

resigned understanding of the complexity of people's responses which engages the reader. The candidate develops the argument in a surprising, but relevant direction, by suggesting that: "European political discussions have attempted to dehumanise the problem...", making them similar to the traffickers who see refugees as objects to be moved and exploited.

The candidate moves towards a conclusion by taking a more objective stance to the current (at the time of writing) situation. This reveals a **sustained thoughtfulness** to the issue, reflecting the sophisticated understanding of this complex, and changing, topic. The candidate again deploys language with skill to criticise the "preposterous" ideas of some politicians. The final paragraph takes an historical perspective as the candidate proffers his own solution for consideration. The conclusion is again not perfect, but clearly establishes an appropriate tone and language to bring the essay to a suitable end-point.

Content

Treatment of central thematic concerns reveals sustained thoughtfulness and some insight throughout; judicious selection and use of source material.

Structure

Skilful shaping and sequencing which contributes significantly to impact – clear thematic linkage from one paragraph to another.

Stance/tone/mood

A committed and clear stance, and a tone and mood which is skilfully created and rigorously sustained.

Expression

A skilful use of style, technique and language.

This is work of a high quality and is placed in the range of 15-13. It does not fully meet the descriptors (insight and word-choice could be enhanced).

Mark: 14