

Candidate 10

The candidate evidence has achieved the following marks for the coursework assessment task.

The candidate was awarded **21 marks**.

Topic: *An analysis of how Orwell's portrayal of social injustices, in Down and Out in Paris and London and The Road to Wigan Pier, resonates with his fictional dystopian world in Nineteen Eighty-Four.*

Task

The use of the word 'resonates' provides flexibility and freedom for the candidate to examine how Orwell's experiences, which supplied the material for the first two texts, re-emerge in various forms in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*.

Knowledge and Understanding

This dissertation demonstrates broad knowledge and understanding of the texts. The candidate refers to the living conditions as described in *The Road to Wigan Pier* and how this is echoed in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, both in terms of squalor and cramped spaces. There is a detailed account of the lives of the miners in *The Road to Wigan Pier* which is connected to the depiction of working conditions in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. This is followed by a section which outlines some aspects of the Paris section of *Down and Out in Paris and London* and how Orwell's experiences of extreme hunger are manifested in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. The candidate identifies the parallels between working life in the two genres, non-fiction and fiction, before moving onto the London section of *Down and out in Paris and London*, where the discussion of the life and treatment of tramps allows the candidate to make the connection between how they lack autonomy and how the characters in *Nineteen Eighty-Four* are controlled. This idea is developed later where the candidate supplies a precise parallel between the 'exhausted face' of the young woman in *The Road to Wigan Pier* and Mrs Parsons in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, which, while it might seem a little out of place in the structure of the dissertation allows the candidate to come up with a neat concluding metaphor about unblocking 'the drains of justice'.

This is clearly a relevant approach to the task which demonstrates broad consideration of its implications: wide areas of the two non-fiction texts are identified and summarised and then related to specific aspects of *Nineteen Eighty-Four*.

Textual evidence is used which supports the demands of the task but there are some limitations in the breadth of selection, especially in regards to *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. For example, the detailed description of the life of the miners in *The Road to Wigan Pier* is then related to a fairly sketchy mention of the Proles in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. Similarly, Orwell's experiences of near starvation in *The Road to Wigan Pier* is then related to the dying man in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, but no more is made of this. In addition, some of the textual references are used not for evidential purposes, but merely to assist summary (The 6ft 2 Orwell sleeps with his 'legs doubled up' because if he 'straightened them out' he would kick the person sharing his room).

Analysis

The candidate analyses a relevant range of literary techniques: setting; style ('Orwell uses a fragmented list to highlight ...' which, while it is not quoted, is footnoted); descriptive language and characterisation. The analysis supports the line of argument.

Evaluation

There is a relevant evaluative stance with respect to the texts and task based on evidence presented within the dissertation. The candidate summarises Orwell's approach and objectives ('Orwell's writing ...') and provides an evaluative summary. Moreover, there is evaluative comment throughout related to specific textual references ('the claustrophobic quality of Orwell's description ...'; 'this graphic description of vile living conditions ...').

Expression

The candidate's use of structure, style and language is consistently accurate. The dissertation moves between the three texts in a relevant way, the style and language of the dissertation is accurate and appropriate, and the argument is focussed on the task.

The qualities of the dissertation enumerated above place it firmly in the mark range 22-19. If this dissertation met all the requirements for the mark range 22-19, then the mark awarded would have been 22. However, because of the limitations in the breadth of selection of textual evidence identified in knowledge and understanding, the final mark awarded is 21.

Mark: 21