

Candidate 10

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for this course assessment component.

The candidate was awarded **20 marks**.

Q9 Compare and contrast the use of setting and its thematic significance in **two** novels.

Knowledge and Understanding

These are two novels that are entirely appropriate for this question. The candidate clearly prepares well for the task by offering three themes for consideration: love, self-discovery and societal restriction.

This answer shows comprehensive knowledge and understanding of both texts. There is no wasted time in plot summary. Immediately the key characters, Lucy and Maurice are introduced, and the impact of the two settings, renaissance 'natural' Italy and repressive Edwardian England, is presented. Cecil is shown to be the 'agent of society's (and so Lucy's) restriction'. Italy is seen as 'Renaissance' while England, and Cecil, is 'Mediaeval' and 'Gothic'. We are told that George and Lucy overcome class restraint while Maurice cannot admit his homosexuality. The impact of nature is then introduced and we are shown Maurice happy with Clive at Cambridge, but then miserable at Penge when society's expectations are oppressive. The concept of light and dark draws out a contrast between the two characters: Maurice hates the light as it exposes; Lucy is seen in the dark before she gets to know her true self. Finally there are briefer references to the impact of the natural world and its effect on the characters. There is a clear and relevant exploration with sustained consideration of the implications of the question. The extensive use of textual reference supports the argument which is clearly focused on the demands of the question.

Analysis

There is relevant analysis of a task-appropriate range of literary techniques and language which skilfully strengthen the argument. The Botticelli image is effective in conveying 'true and intellectual love' following the beauty of the violets and the water images. This is supported by the long quote showing the cleansing image of the river flowing into the Med. In *Maurice* there is the beach and cliff scene where the separation of Maurice from his classmates is used to show his isolation from them, but in his awareness he should be like them. There is also the explanation of the importance of the 'View' which matches the 'progressive' characters. Light and dark are used to enhance characterisation: Maurice in the 'primeval' dark beach afraid of the dawn; Lucy in the dark as yet unaware of her true feelings. There is reference to The Sacred Lake with its Garden of Eden

comparison 'washing away' societal restraint. Throughout, the analysis of the settings is skilfully shown to have impact on the characters' self-discovery.

Evaluation

There is a reference to the Forster 'muddle' which is an effective parallel to this answer: how does setting allow characters to find themselves? The reference to the Renaissance further suggests a freedom to rediscover your true self. There are throughout effective comparisons between Lucy and Maurice: returning to England is a 'regression' for Lucy; Maurice is seen to be repressed when he visits Clive's home in Penge; Lucy is presented as being in the dark, engaged to Cecil, but discovers the light in Italy with George; finally Maurice can find happiness with Alec in the open. The comment that progressive characters have a 'view' sums up the importance of an open setting to their development. This response represents a committed, clear evaluative stance skilfully based on precise evidence.

Technical Accuracy

This essay clearly meets minimum standards in structure, style, language and literary terminology.

This essay is placed in the mark range 20–19. Although there might be some indication that the last part has been hurriedly tacked on in exam conditions, this is a sophisticated essay and the mark awarded is 20.

Mark: 20