

Commentary on candidate evidence

Candidate 9

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

The candidate was awarded **15 marks**.

Q26. Discuss how the dramatic significance of time and place is developed in any two plays.

Knowledge and Understanding

There is clear broad understanding of both texts, with the evidence linked securely to the question. In *Dracula* there are references to the different social classes, to Lucy's unconventionality as a Victorian heroine, to Florrie's pregnancy and her helplessness, to the use of *Dracula* as a sexual predator, and in *Mary Queen of Scots got her Head Chopped Off (Queen of Scots)* to the anachronistic devices – bowler hat, paper planes, typewriter – and the way the historical backgrounds in each play are paralleled in the concept of Lochhead's modern take.

Analysis

There is relevant analysis of a range of dramatic techniques and features of language which strengthen the argument. There are comments on characterisation which highlight the dynamic of old and modern: the national identity goes from La Corbie's commentary to modern day Princes St, but still the presence of 'hoore houses'. Lucy's state of sexy undress is used to show her daring unconventionality yet at the same time her fateful vulnerability, and how this provides a commentary on the predatory role of men. The queens are also compared to illustrate how men have to be handled in an age when women were vulnerable, showing them as beggar women or involved in a modern playground game: Elizabeth will never marry.

Evaluation

There is a discernible and relevant evaluative stance throughout, based on clear evidence. In *Queen of Scots*, evidence used points to the difficulties of both women in their time but also to those of modern women, mocked by men, having to be politically astute and, in Mary's case, ridiculed in a modern playground game. In *Dracula*, the main evaluation focuses on the pressures heaped on Victorian women in a male-dominated society, especially the need for sexual inhibition.

"identity of an almost mediaeval Scotland mirrors a modern day one ..."

"sympathy of audience for Lucy forces them to compare her vulnerability to any victim of modern times"; "women are not ... under pressure ... until they take charge..." et al

Structure delivers a clear line of argument; style and language are clear and appropriate throughout. There is awareness of the dramatic techniques used to portray the key ideas.

Technical Accuracy

This essay meets the minimum level for technical accuracy.

A mark of 15 is awarded.