

# Commentary on candidate evidence

The candidate evidence has achieved the following marks for each question of this question paper.

## Candidate 1

### Section 2 – Question 3

**Choose a play in which you find the fate of a character to be upsetting or moving or shocking.**

**By referring to appropriate techniques, briefly explain why you found the fate of the character upsetting or moving or shocking and discuss how it contributes to your appreciation of the play as a whole.**

The candidate was awarded **14 marks** for this essay.

The candidate has chosen to write about *A View from the Bridge* by Arthur Miller and is focusing on a character's fate that is shocking. The character chosen is Eddie Carbone, the protagonist.

In terms of knowledge and understanding of the text, the candidate, firstly, clearly establishes the positive qualities of Eddie's character such as him being 'family orientated', the relationship with his niece being 'protective at first' and the fact that 'loyalty and honour brought a sense of respect' from his community. The essay discusses the use of the foreshadowing to demonstrate the moral code of the community that Eddie is clearly following at this point in the play. To highlight this the candidate introduces the tale of Vinny Bolzano being 'cut off from society after snitching on his family for helping Italian immigrants'. The candidate moves on to discuss how the arrival of the cousins impacts on the protagonist and how this was the 'spark to Eddie's shocking fate.' They identify Eddie's 'sexual jealousy' rising due to Catherine and Rodolpho's relationship. This results in the character's delusional state of mind when he first visits the lawyer, Alfieri, in an attempt to break the couple up. The candidate discusses how the lawyer clearly warns Eddie of the consequences of informing the authorities of the illegal status of the cousins. Here the candidate clearly understands that Eddie's behaviour becomes more extreme from this point in the play; for example, when they discuss the 'double kiss'. There is further clear textual evidence when the candidate discusses the turning point in Alfieri's office. This discussion supports the clear line of thought that from this point in the play the character 'was on a path of no return' and 'as his fate was nearing Eddie still couldn't see any wrongdoing of his own.' Finally, the candidate focuses on the ending of the play, looking at the conflict between Marco and Eddie, leading to the protagonist's shocking fate.

In terms of analysis and evaluation, there is clear analysis of a range of dramatic techniques including stage directions, foreshadowing, turning point, as well as discussion of how these techniques are used to highlight Eddie's fate. For example, the candidate discusses foreshadowing, using the story of Vinny Bolzano to emphasise how important it is to 'never betray' family and community, a principle that Eddie feels strongly about at this early stage of the play. They also make clear comments on the use of stage directions when Eddie makes a return visit to Alfieri, for example the lighting direction: 'a faint lonely blue'. The candidate analyses how this lighting symbolises Eddie's fate of being alone and isolated if he betrays his family. The candidate clearly states, 'he would go on to have no one if he were to snitch.' They then go on to further demonstrate clear analysis of the turning point used by Miller to comment on Eddie's 'social death', stating 'this once respected man had done the despicable, he lost his morals, his reputation and everyone around him.'

There is a clear evaluative stance with respect to the text and the task as the candidate recognises the development of Eddie's character arc throughout the play, going from a loyal and honourable character to one who is in 'thick delusion' and engulfed in these delusions to the point where he betrays his family and community.

Overall, this essay is clear. The candidate demonstrates clear knowledge and understanding of the play and supports this with a line of thought which is clearly structured and expressed. At the beginning of the essay, the candidate sets up the fate of the character and does not deviate from this focus. Analysis is clear and the candidate makes clear evaluative comments linked to Eddie's shocking fate.

The essay is firmly placed in the middle of the 15-13 mark range and was awarded **14 marks**.