

Commentary on candidate evidence

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

Candidate 3

Section 2 – Question 5

Choose a novel or short story which explores love or isolation or conflict.

By referring to appropriate techniques, discuss how the exploration of love or isolation or conflict contributes to your appreciation of the text as a whole.

The candidate was awarded **13 marks** for this essay.

The candidate has chosen to write about the novel *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding and focuses on the conflict between the boys on the island as they 'try to create a viable society in order to survive and seek rescue'. The candidate discusses the main conflicts of the novel, including the conflict between Ralph and Jack over leadership and the subsequent conflict between those who seek a 'peaceful existence' and Jack and the hunters' tribalistic tendencies.

In terms of knowledge and understanding of the text, the candidate demonstrates clear knowledge and understanding as they discuss the initial conflict between Ralph and Jack when Ralph is nominated as leader, 'much to the annoyance of Jack.' We are then told Ralph recognises that 'things are breaking up.' This idea is evidenced by the argument over the signal fire, with the candidate demonstrating the difference between Ralph and Jack, showing that Jack is 'not so open to a dialogue or conflict resolution'.

Understanding of the novel's theme is clearly conveyed as the essay discusses Simon's 'epiphany' that the 'Beast' is actually 'the evil inherent within them'. Simon's subsequent death is then used to show the contrast between the morals of Ralph and Jack's hunters. Piggy's death is also recognised as a significant moment, alongside the destruction of the conch, although the penultimate paragraph on the novel's ending feels more narrative and less developed. Finally, the candidate clearly sums up the conflicts in the novel in the conclusion – juxtaposing the peaceful Ralph, Simon and Piggy with those who use 'violence and murder to get their own way' which leads to 'terrible consequences'.

In terms of analysis and evaluation, the essay contrasts the characterisation of Ralph and Jack to explore the main conflicts of the novel – order vs evil and disorder. There is clear analysis of the 'mythical Beast' and its importance as an 'internal' threat rather than an 'external literal danger' in relation to the novel's title, the devil and the savagery within the boys. The candidate recognises the

conch as a symbol of 'civility and working together' telling us that Ralph 'attempts to rally the group by blowing the conch' at the beginning and recognising the importance of its destruction as part of Piggy's death, although this analysis could be developed further: it is adequate rather than clear. There is a clear evaluative stance with respect to the task as the candidate focuses on the overall conflict between civility and savagery as represented by Ralph's group versus Jack's group and discusses how the conflict helps to explore the evil inside us all.

Overall, this essay shows clear knowledge and understanding of the novel. Analysis and evaluation is clear but in places the analysis is adequate rather than clear and the essay becomes more narrative. Overall, the essay is placed in the 15-13 category, and sits at the lower end of the 15-13 range. It is awarded **13 marks**.