Candidate 3 evidence

Section 2 - Part C

9. 'A Hanging' by George Orwell

is a non-fiction text on an ethical issue. The essay 'Papers' is set in the 1930s in Burma where Orwell joins the execution party leading a prisoner to the gallows where he will be executed. The writer uses various techniques to...
<table>
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<th>Techniques to explore the metaphor</th>
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<td>&quot;unspeakable wrongs&quot; of capital</td>
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<td>punishment and allows the reader</td>
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<td>to be persuaded into the writer's</td>
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<td>point of view.</td>
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The essay begins with a description of the living conditions for the prisoners: "like small animal cages", "ten feet by ten", "plush bed". These all suggest that the prisoners are not treated with respect and are forced to live like animals in a zoo, "cages" has connotations of being trapped but also suggests that their fate after the cages will not be pleasant. This is particularly effective as many of these men are on
Death now and will soon to be
exactly where the man being
executed is today. This use of
language and description effectively
conveys the inhuman conditions and
lack of respect for his person.

The essay then goes on to describe
the prisoner himself and the contrast
between his behaviour and that
of the guards. The description of
the man is very powerful;
the reader and effectively conveys
the outcome of the conditions the
man have to live in: "a
puny wisp of a man". This is
a shocking image as it conveys
a human we would not often
associate with a man. We consider
as strong and powerful making the image particularly striking. The guards are very controlling over the prisoner and have little thought towards his prisoner behaviour: “They lashed his arms tight to his sides.” This further emphasizes the lack of respect for the prisoner and makes the reader feel sympathy towards the man. In contrast, the prisoner is described as not resisting and “hanging limply” making the guards actions seem unnecessary and violent.

Their journey to the gallows is stopped quickly comes to a halt at the appearance of a dog. The creature of the dog is very
Important to the writer's views against capital punishment as it represents life and happiness: "waggling its whole body". It is described as having "danced" and "gambolled" around the group with note of its consequences. In contrast to this the man is seen to be "looking on incuriously," This further illustrates the effect of the prison bar on the man and his lack of care towards what is happening.

The turning point of this essay arrives when Orwell watches the man step away from a puddle and realises the "imponderable arrogance" of...
Not they are about to do: “he stepped slightly aside to avoid a puddle on the path.” This is also important for the reader as it is at this point that we begin to understand why this is wrong and Orwell’s view on the hanging: “the unpeakable wrongness of cutting a life short when it is in full tide.” The writer describes the hanging and the death as “one mind less, one world less” and thus is particularly powerful in urging the reader to think about their own views on capital punishment and whether they believe this loss of life can ever be justified.
When the execution party finally reach the Gallows we are faced with an image of a wasteland. The Gallows are described as "overgrown" and "tall prudly weeds". These images are particularly powerful as we realise that the lack of respect for these men extends to the place that we kill them. As the hanging commences the premiere begins to call out "RAM! RAM! RAM! RAM!". This is a shocking response as he has been unaware and not aware of his situation throughout the rest of the journey to the Gallows. This is seen to affect the guards and the dog as much as it affects the reader: "Bayonets unwavered."
This shows the guards themselves having doubts about the killing and the increase that has been caused by two men calling to his god. The dog, representing life and happiness, then retreats into a corner "looking timorously" at the scene. Orwell's powerful description and use of word choice "wavering", "timorously", effectively engage the reader, cause them to feel sympathetic towards the men and question their own beliefs on capital punishment.

In conclusion, "A Hanging" by George Orwell is an effective example of an essay that makes you question an ethical issue. I believe that through careful
language and description that the writer has conveyed his views on capital punishment and has shown the reader that taking a life can never be justified.