

Candidate 3 evidence

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	Section 2 - Part C	
9.	<p>'A Hanging' by George Orwell is a non-fiction text in which that causes the reader to think consider their views on an ethical issue. The essay follows is set in the 1930's in Burma where Orwell joins the execution party leading a prisoner to the gallows where he will be executed. The writer uses various</p>	

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	<p>techniques to explore the importance "unspeakable wrongness" of capital punishment and allows ^{allows} the reader to be persuaded into the writers point of view.</p>
	<p>The an essay begins with a description of the living conditions for the prisoners: "like small animal cages", "ten feet by ten", "plank bed". These all suggest that the prisoners are not treated with respect 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</p>

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	death row and will soon to be
	executed where the man being
	executed is today. This use of
	language and descriptions effectively
	conveys the inhumane conditions and
	lack of respect for the process.
	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 to
	the reader and effectively conveys
	the outcome of the conditions the
	men have to live in: "a
	pony wisp of a man". This is
	a shocking image as it conveys
	a human we could not often
	associate with a man. We consider

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	<p>as strong and powerful making this image particularly striking. The guards are very controlling over the prisoner and have little thought towards the prisoners behaviour: "they lashed his arms tight to his sides". This further emphasises 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.</p>
	<p>Their journey to the gallows is halted quickly comes to a halt at the appearance of a dog. The anecdote of the dog is very</p>

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	<p>important to the writer's views against capital punishment as it represents life and happiness: "wagging its whole body". It is described as having "droned" and "gambolled" around the group with not a fear of the consequences. In contrast to this the man is seen to be "looking on theorously incuriously". This further illustrates the affect of the prison has had on the man and his lack of care towards what is happening.</p>
	<p>The turning point of this essay comes when Orwell watches the man step away from a puddle and realises the "unspeakable wrongness" of...</p>

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<p>what 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 views on the hanging: "the unspeakable 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 this is particularly powerful in causing the reader to think about their own views on capital punishment and whether they believe this loss of life can ever be justified.</p>	

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This shows the guards themselves having doubts about the killing and the crease that has been caused by this man 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 man 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 use of

