Commentary on candidate evidence question 1a and 1b

Candidate 1 – Joker

Question 1a: Audience

The candidate was awarded **7 marks**.

The target audience of comic book fans is described but not taken any further. The response of the people of colour demographic is decoded in detail. There is discussion of possible negative responses to the representation of people of colour in the film, with detailed exemplification given of the scenes on the bus and in the alley to back this up. There is also comment on the lack of diversity in casting but this is not decoded in detail.

Overall, one audience response is decoded in detail, with some comment on developed references to media content. The references and comment are not in sufficient detail to place the script at the top end of the 7-8 band so the script was awarded 7 marks.

Question 1b: Language and/or Representations and/or Categories with Audience

The candidate was awarded **8 marks.**

The language codes utilised in the riot sequence of *Joker* are decoded in detail and discussed with reference to specific audience responses. There are developed references to the use of camera and mise-en-scène in the sequence, with additional discussion of how this scene refers back to similar use of language codes in the opening scene of the film. There is comment on how the language codes analysed will create satisfaction for the target audience of comic book fans.

Overall, language is decoded in detail through a discussion of codes from one sequence, with developed references to media content and with comment on how the language codes have influenced audience responses, and so the script is placed at the upper end of the 7-8 band.

Candidate 2 – Joker

Question 1a: Audience

The candidate was awarded **5 marks**.

The audience response of people living in poverty is explained with some references to the portrayal of Arthur and Gotham City. The negative responses of people of colour and female audiences are decoded in lesser detail. The negative response of people of colour is discussed with reference to the seemingly uncaring therapist, and the negative response of female audiences is discussed with reference to the portrayal of Arthur's fantasy girlfriend. There are links made between these audience responses and specific examples from the media content, but the decoding of audience responses is only a little more detailed than explanation and so the script is placed at the lower end of the 5-6 mark band.

Question 1b: Language and/or Representations and/or Categories with Audience

The candidate was awarded **4 marks.**

There is an explanation of the impact of non-diegetic music in the stairs sequence and how it suggests that Arthur is in a world of his own. There is implicit explanation of the use of mise-en-scène in the riot scene, and there is an explanation of the use of blood to foreshadow the death of Thomas Wayne. Although the conclusion references the concepts of language and audience, there is no link made between them. Overall, language is explained with relevant references to media content but there is no link between language and audience. This places the script in the 3-4 mark band and it was awarded the higher mark.