

Commentary on candidate evidence

The candidate evidence has achieved the following marks for each response to question 1 of question paper 1.

Candidate 1: The Matrix

Question 1a

The candidate was awarded **10 marks**.

Two institutional factors are decoded in detail with developed references to the text, and developed comment. The first paragraph decodes the factor of budget (in relation to use of kung-fu experts and high quality martial arts training for the actors) in detail. There are developed references to the key scenes of the dojo and the subway battle. The candidate makes developed comment on the impact of the kung-fu training on these scenes and how this has made the scenes impressive and allowed for a wider range of camera angles as it reduced the need for stunt artists. The second paragraph decodes the factor of budget in relation to the use of pyrotechnics in some detail, with developed references and some comment. The third paragraph decodes the institutional factor of budget in detail, this time focussing on the use of bullet time and wirework. This paragraph contains developed references to the opening sequence and the subway scene, and again the candidate makes developed comment on the impact of bullet time and wirework on these scenes and on the financial success of the film as a whole, with discussion of how the film-makers 'revolutionised slow motion' and thus drew in wider audiences. As there are two institutional factors decoded in detail, with developed references and developed comments, the top mark in the 10-9 band is awarded.

Question 1b

The candidate was awarded **7 marks**.

One representation is decoded in detail, with developed references and comment on the relationship between institutions and representation. Neo's representation as the hero or 'chosen one' is decoded through a range of examples such as his rebellious attitude towards the villains, his fighting ability, his bravery and his loyalty to Morpheus. There are developed references to several key scenes to support this analysis. There are some brief comments relating the representation to the institutional factors discussed in part a, for example how the pyrotechnics emphasise the '**massive risk**' Neo takes to save his leader and how the kung-fu training made it seem effortless for Neo to beat the villains in battle. As one representation is decoded in detail, with developed references but only brief comments relating these to institutional factors, the lower mark in the 8-7 band is awarded.

Candidate 2: The Greatest Showman

Question 1a

The candidate was awarded **6 marks**.

Two institutional factors are decoded in lesser detail with relevant references to the text. The first paragraph decodes budget with reference to its implications for the use of CGI and continuity. The second paragraph decodes casting with reference to the choices of Hugh Jackman and Zac Efron. While not all the references here are fully grounded in institutions, the candidate does relate the choices of the actors to the institutional drive for profit, and so the section can be credited as analysis in lesser detail. As two concepts are decoded in lesser detail with relevant references, the upper mark in the 6-5 band is awarded.

Question 1b

The candidate was awarded **6 marks**.

The use of language features is decoded in some detail in two key sequences: 'A Million Dreams' and 'Rewrite the Stars'. There are developed references to a range of technical and cultural codes within these sequences. Some links are made between institutions and the use of language (e.g. the candidate links budget to the mise-en-scene), but there are no comments on the relationship between institutional factors and the use of language codes. There are two sequences in which language is decoded in some detail, but as there are only links to made to institutions, the upper mark in the 6-5 band is awarded.

Candidate 3: The Lost Boys

Question 1a

The candidate was awarded **5 marks**.

Two institutional factors are decoded in lesser detail with relevant references to the text. In paragraph one, the institutional factor of certification laws is decoded in lesser detail, with a relevant reference to the scene where the characters are hanging from a bridge. Paragraph 2 contains a vague description of child labour laws but does not go into detail or include any analysis of how these laws have impacted the text. There are no specific references to content in this paragraph. In paragraph 3, the institutional factor of libel laws is decoded in lesser detail, with a relevant reference to the location of the film. As two institutional factors are decoded in lesser detail, and there are relevant references, the response sits in the 5-6 band. The lower mark is awarded due to the fact that there are only two references to content and these do not go into detail.

Question 1b

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

Narrative and representations are explained, looking at the narrative concept of binary oppositions, and the representations of Star and Santa Carla. There are relevant references to the text to support the explanations. Throughout the response, no links are made between institutions and the content-based key aspects. As two key aspects are explained with several relevant references, the upper mark in the 4-3 band is awarded.