
Question Paper – National 5 Media

Script 1 Evidence

1 a) In The Shawshank Redemption, Andy is represented as someone of a higher socio-economic group (B-C) from when he first appears in the film.

In The Shawshank Redemption, the warden appears throughout as a religious hypocrite.

b) Technical codes - Andy has a sense of intelligence from the beginning via his dialogue, challenging those in the court-room by claiming he finds it "decidedly inconvenient" that his gun was never found.

He also appears to have a rather profound knowledge of music, playing Mozart for his fellow prisoners.

The warden is shown to use his religion as a threat more than anything else, as when the prisoners arrive, he says "I believe in two things: discipline and the Bible," before saying "You belong to me." He also frequently uses profanity throughout.



The Warden also ironically has his safe of illegal dealings concealed behind a frame of a Biblical verse based on judgement, adding to his hypocrisy. It is also reflected as he often appears to come out of darkness, his silver cross shining.

Cultural codes - Andy is seen at the beginning wearing a suit in court, highlighting he is of a higher social class, creating a first impression. He also has a lot of knowledge in literacy, as he identifies and corrects books/authors to his less-informed prisoner friends. His creativity is shown as he patiently hammers a wall over the years to plan his escape. He is also seen wearing glasses in some scenes, connoting his intelligence.

The Warden is often seen sporting a cross on his suit jacket, which shines to



contrast his hypocritical/corrupt nature.

His constant use of profanity paired with Biblical references also help in making a contrast.

2 a) The tone of The Shawshank Redemption is dark with occasional uplifting moments as it is set in a dismal, oppressed prison with some well-intentioned inmates.

b) Technical codes - Upon Andy's arrival to Shawshank, as he enters the camera pans under to make the prison appear larger/grander and therefore more intimidating.

The interior of the prison is often seen to be dark and dismal, particularly at the beginning when the Warden enters from the darkness. This is contrasted in a more uplifting scene when the prisoners sip cold beer while working on a rooftop, the sun shining. This highlights just how



much the prisoners have been missing out on in the dark, dreary prison.

Cultural codes - The prisoners are shown to wear worn-out, distressed denim, perhaps suggesting the same idea of their lives in Shawshank. The prison guards are shown in black clothing with a hat and baton, similar to that of Nazi-like attire. The looks and feeling of surprise when Andy blasts Mozart music across the prison is uplifting and shows how much they have been deprived of general culture.

3 a) The Truman Show follows that of the Classic Hollywood Narrative. It starts with Truman going about his daily life blissfully unaware that he is the subject of a popular reality show (order). A studio light falls out of the sky



raising Truman's suspicions (disorder).

After overcoming several obstacles in trying to escape the fictional town of Seahaven, he eventually comes to his senses and leaves the show behind (order restored).

b) With a PG rating and a potentially young audience, the narrative should be straight-forward to follow and the audience should be able to decipher the events taking place. This type of narrative helps create closure and a satisfying ending for those watching, e.g. Truman making his well-deserved exit.

4 a) The preferred reading of *The Shawshank Redemption* is that Andy's escape was well deserved and those within the prison system are corrupt and not to be trusted. It is shown as the Warden cracks under pressure by committing and



the guards taken away by authorities, creating closure and the idea that they got their comeuppance. In the end, Andy is shown to return to a comfortable, tranquil life that he escaped for.

b) An audience who would not take the preferred reading is those working within the prison system. They would not appreciate being portrayed as corrupt, remorseless and villainous members to society as it can be argued that they tackle a very difficult job that not many would like to fill.

Another audience who would not take the preferred reading is Christians.

They would not appreciate the representation of the Warden; a corrupt, remorseless hypocrite who puts on a religious, pristine front. They may



feel that this inaccurately portrays their religion and that people may generally view all Christians in a similar light.

The Warden committing several sins including requesting murder and committing suicide.

5 One role of The Truman Show is to generate a profit. With a PG rating, this widens the audience as those who are younger can appreciate the straight-forward narrative structure/family-style comedy while those who are older can appreciate the darker aspect and the at times profound theme and storyline. The film being released in the summer of 1998 brings forward a larger audience and therefore giving it potential Blockbuster status. Giving Jim Carrey a starring role will guarantee a younger



