

91099



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

2

SUPERVISOR'S USE ONLY

Level 2 English, 2014

91099 Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s), supported by evidence

9.30 am Thursday 13 November 2014

Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s), supported by evidence.	Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s) convincingly, supported by evidence.	Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s) perceptively, supported by evidence.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

You should answer ONE of the essay questions in this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

Merit

TOTAL

ASSESSOR'S USE ONLY

Your essay should be at least 350 words long. The quality of your analysis is more important than the length of your essay.

Q6

Your essay should include:

- an **introduction** that states the focus of your essay
- **key points** related to the question, supported by examples and quotations
- a **conclusion** that focuses on your argument.

Support the points you make with **specific details** from the text(s).

Begin your visual or oral text(s) essay here:

In the film 'Cry Freedom' directed by Richard Attenborough language features helped to shape my response to the themes of ^{hope and} racism. We can understand the themes of ^{hope and racism} ~~racism~~ through the character Steve Biko. In the courtroom scene, Donald and Steve first meeting, and the interrogation scene, the film techniques of lighting and camera angle shaped my response to the themes. Cry Freedom is a film set in 1970's South Africa during the Apartheid. It tells the story of a black activist Steve Biko and white journalist Donald Woods and their struggle to expose racism and push black equality.

A film technique that helped shape my response to the theme of ^{hope} ~~racism~~ was lighting in the courtroom scene and when Donald and Steve first met. In the courtroom scene, Steve was appearing as a witness to the defense. We see a ray of sunlight shining down on him as he speaks. The light

represents the light of God and that Steve is the chosen one. The light gives Steve a messianic quality and Jesus figure impression. This is significant because it foreshadows the events of the film by establishing the link with Steve and Jesus. Jesus died for what he believed in and his legacy went on, the same happened with Steve. This relates to the theme of hope because the light can symbolise hope for the future. A major aspect of the film is about the black community striving for a better life and equal rights, Steve along with other leaders are their hope and guiding light. The technique in this scene gave me a positive response to the theme of hope. The audience becomes connected and supportive towards Steve and the ambitions and hopes he displays for his fellow people. This can be related to the author's purpose of changing the way society views different people. A quotation that Steve says is, 'change the way people think and things will never be the same'. This was Steve's major goal which provided hope for his supporters to promote equality within their society. Another scene where lighting can be used to symbolise hope was when Donald and Steve first met. As Donald

approached Steve, a weeping willow tree was blocking his view. The weeping willow is significant because it represents the idea of bars and captivity, how Steve has restrictions because of his ban. The hope can be seen when the light is shining through the branches. This is important because although we see that Steve has restrictions and strict rules, he still is a symbol of hope and will fight the challenges he faces and risk his life in order to change society. I felt a strong response to this technique in this scene. Even though Steve was banned he was dedicated to his values and pursuing them. The contrast between the branches representing captivity and the light shining through representing hope is relatable to everyday life. Even when we have struggles there is also hope shining through to improve a situation.

A film technique that shaped my response to the theme of racism was camera angles, in the interrogation and illegal gathering scenes. The illegal gathering and interrogation scenes contrast and helped my understanding and response to the theme.

Steve attends an illegal gathering to give a speech about black equality. ~~we~~ ~~see~~ We see low angle shots looking up towards Steve, this gives him an authoritative position. As he speaks he is surrounded by people who listen and support his ideas. An important aspect of this scene and the camera angles used are that we see the crowds of people and supporters around Steve on equal levels. They all value each other and all aim towards the same goal. A paid informer who sees Steve speaking to the crowd which goes against his ban, informs the police. This then leads to the interrogation scene where he is being questioned by Captain De Wett. In this scene we see contrasting angles. As Steve is being questioned he is sitting down while Captain De Wett is standing. The camera angles we see are low angles of Steve looking up towards Captain De Wett and high angles looking down at Steve. These scenes and camera angles relate to the theme of racism because of ~~the~~ the levels we see. In the illegal gathering everyone is equal, this contrasts to the interrogation where Steve is being looked down on

and is on a lower level to the police officers because he is black. My response to the camera angles in this scene was significant, ~~when~~ we began to see the vulnerability of Steve and how the black community is looked down on in society because of the colour of their skin. I found it unfair and uncomfortable to watch the way the white people acted towards the blacks. A quotation that Captain De Wette uses is, 'I will see you be put away Biko.' I found this significant because of how aggressive the police were and how Steve did nothing wrong except speak to his people, but I felt as though the police purposely wanted to put him into jail or kill him because they wanted to emphasise their authority over the blacks. This can be related to the author's purpose of exposing the issues in society and putting an end to racism.

To conclude, important film techniques that were used to shape my response to the themes of hope and racism were lighting and camera angles. Through the character Steve and the important

Extra space if required.

Write the question number(s) if applicable.

QUESTION
NUMBER

scenes of the courtroom, Donald and Steve first meeting, illegal gathering and interrogation scenes, it helped to develop my understanding and relate it to significant themes throughout the film and the authors purpose.

Merit

This script meets the requirements for Merit for this standard. It answers the question chosen in a convincing way. Several examples of language features are identified and presented along with specific examples. These are then related to theme by way of viewer response. An example is the contrast between two sets of camera angles, which is analysed in terms of the theme of racism and linked to the viewer response of 'unfair and uncomfortable'.