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90850



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY  
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

QUALIFY FOR THE FUTURE WORLD  
KIA NOHO TAKATŪ KI TŌ ĀMUA AO!

SUPERVISOR'S USE ONLY

## Level 1 English, 2018

**90850 Show understanding of specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s), using supporting evidence**

9.30 a.m. Monday 12 November 2018  
Credits: Four

| Achievement   | Achievement with Merit   | Achievement with Excellence  |
|---|--|--|
| Show understanding of specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s), using supporting evidence. | Show convincing understanding of specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s), using supporting evidence. | Show perceptive understanding of specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s), using supporting 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.**

**Excellence**

**TOTAL**

**07**

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You should aim to write a concise essay of no more than three pages in length. The quality of your writing is more important than the length of your essay.

Make sure you answer both parts of the question, and support the points you make with specific details from the text(s).

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

Question number: 4

To rise up from beyond where you came from is a universal desire and present in the film 'Slumdog Millionaire' directed by Danny Boyle. Throughout numerous settings he encapsulates the idea of the underdog triumphing repeatedly in settings like the Indian Slum, Orphanage and the Gamston. We are encouraged to rise up like Jamal (the lead protagonist) and do what no one else believes possible.

One of the first settings in the film is the Indian Slum and it is where Jamal and Salim live. The movie opens with a chase scene with heavily percussive non-diegetic sound to echo the boy's feet as they run and try escape the policemen chasing them. Through the use of a shaky cam of the boys jumping over a wall, we can imagine the shakiness of the slums they live in as unstable and tension is created as they run away. This is combined with numerous dutch angles at the boys almost as if the camera had fallen over but kept recording as the boys ran past. The effect of these techniques is to create a hectic

Scene in which the boys come from and create a backstory for these boys that we can believe. These are only 8 year old boys and so a fully grown policeman should have no trouble capturing them, yet he is unable to do so. This triumph of the boys over the police officer is the first instance of the underdog triumphing in this film; an element it will continue to repeat. By placing this setting so early in the film the heart of the film is established early. Even the title "Slumdog Millionaire" is a ~~perfect~~ portmanteau of slum and underdog, who becomes a millionaire. We can understand how the underdog can triumph through this setting and overcome extraordinary odds.

Later in the film the boys are captured by Maman in the orphanage who deliberately disables children to receive more money begging. Through the birds eye view shot of the orphanage we can see how the new comers are separated from the disabled kids as to not let them realise what this is about. Later Maman (the orphanage owner) makes fun of Salim and so, shown through a mid shot he climbs onto Puncose and try tries to beat him up. Salim does not win, but his determination to win is visible. It is clear to the audience that Salim does not care about how bad his odds are, he will try and overcome them not however he can. When the boys realise what Maman is planning they escape aboard a train, with a closeup shot of Salim letting Latika

go so that they can escape. Once the boys understood what was going on they immediately escape and overcome the grown men chasing after them not by strength but by cunning. These boys were the underdogs and had even odds stacked against them, yet they were able to overcome them and triumph. What Maman was doing to the children was horrific and it raises ethical questions as to whether a family friendly movie should have such gruesome elements of torture. It creates a good villain that the protagonists can defeat but it brings disturbing images to light. ~~Regardless~~ By this is the second main occurrence of the under dog triumphing in the text and we can understand more about this idea. ||

One of the most important settings in the text is the gameshow studio. ~~In this~~ is where Tamul plays 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire' and is the backbone for the structure of the movie. The host Prem, says to Tamul when he sees him "Ah the chairwallah!" which is making fun of Tamul as he only makes tea for everyone else at the office. Prem is established as the one in control of the situation and Tamul is, once again, the underdog in the scene. However, as Tamul goes onto to answer the questions correctly, the perspectives on him change. Whereas before Prem had numerous low angled shots to show his dominance, now the camera angles showed both men at equal ||

Extra space if required.

Write the question number(s) if applicable.

ASSESSOR'S  
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NUMBER

levels as if they were equals in the setting. This change is showing how Tannu is over-coming his background ~~to being~~ from being the underdog. In India (the <sup>main</sup> setting of this film) the caste system is a vital part of society. It is where you are born and it is not thought that you can become more than you are born. This idea of the underdog triumphing (while present in Western culture such as "Annie," "Lord of the Rings" and "Shershank Redemption") is an ~~an~~ revolutionary idea for Indian society and is clearly shown when Tannu wins who wants to be a Millionaire and defies everyone's expectations.

In conclusion, the idea that the underdog can triumph is a powerful idea that we can empathise with. While it is present in Western culture, it is a revolutionary idea for Indian society (as this is a Bollywood movie) and it is through the set settings of the Fuhu slum, Orphanage and baresthen room that this idea is evident and we can understand it.

E7

## Excellence Exemplar 2018

| Subject | Level 1 English |   | Standard | 90850 | Total score | 07 |
|---------|-----------------|---|----------|-------|-------------|----|
| Q       | Grade score     | Annotation  |          |       |             |    |
| 4       | E7              | <p>Slum Dog Millionaire</p> <p>The response begins with a confident statement which presents the central argument and sets the tone of the essay. The discussion involves three settings: the slum, the orphanage and the studio. There is a clear understanding of the crafting of the film through techniques.</p> <p>The essay involves the reader in the discussion with the use of the third person "We are encouraged to rise up like Jamal" which shows an understanding of the relationship between the director, the text and the audience. Discussion beyond the text is relevant as it is about the Indian caste system and is insightful about the 'underdog' in other films.</p> |          |       |             |    |