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91472



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Level 3 English, 2018

91472 Respond critically to specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), supported by evidence

9.30 a.m. Wednesday 21 November 2018

Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Respond critically to specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), supported by evidence.	Respond critically and convincingly to specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), supported by evidence.	Respond critically and perceptively to specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), 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.

Write ONE essay 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

05

ASSESSOR'S USE ONLY

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

In your essay, discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement by making a close analysis.

Begin your written text(s) essay here:

Statement number: 7

William Shakespeare was known to be a writer who skilfully crafted texts which scrutinized aspects of society in the Elizabethan era. Othello, the Tragedy of the Moor, is no different. The main conflict in the text is arguably between Othello, a well respected army general, and his fair wife, Desdemona. On the ~~surface~~ surface, both Othello ~~and~~ Desdemona can be seen as victims to the motiveless malignity of Iago, thus causing their downfall. But if we peer through another level, we can begin to draw out the idea that the ~~between~~ discourse between Othello and Desdemona is not simply an emotional feud between two characters. More powerfully however, it is the idea that ~~these~~ two represent the clash between ~~a~~ man and woman in this era. is the fact that this feud can be seen as a representation of the clash between that of men and women in this era.

The male characters in Othello all value their reputation greatly, believing that if you are to lose your reputation, "what's left is monstrous." This can be seen when Othello strips Cassio of his rank due to getting into a drunken brawl, and Cassio ~~sadly~~ begins crying in anguish, ~~the~~ weeping "O' reputation, my reputation is gone." This is also seen through the character of Othello, who believes that "[his] parts, [his] soul, shall manifest [him] rightly."

even though he murders his wife and then commits suicide. This idea held by the male characters in Othello illustrates to the audience the consequences which self-righteousness can have on your real priorities. As the men hold their rank and reputation as their first priority, ~~so~~ their wives are left feeling isolated. Men are so set on pursuing power, rank and reputation that ~~it~~ it renders them incapable to love. Emilia addresses this issue in the play by ~~as~~ asking "why do they change themselves for us? Is it sport?" Here, Emilia is asking why their husbands act so differently towards women than they do with ~~their~~ other men. From one perspective, this issue can be seen to be brought about due to their reputation to be lost if seen doing wrong, and that this was the case in this era. However, looking deeper into the text you can uncover another level to this problem. Women are happy to brave scorn in order to pursue love or truth. Contrasted to the men in the play, Desdemona challenges the social expectation by marrying Othello against her fathers wish as he ~~as~~ believes "she hath been practised on with foul charms." This exposes the double standard men had at this time towards the pursuit of love and the possible effects it will have on reputation.

Although Iago may be initially seen as the catalyst behind Othello's downfall, on another level, it is the character traits that Othello possesses which bring about the tragedy. When Iago plants the idea in Othello that Desdemona has been unfaithful ~~with~~ to him with Cassio, it is Othello's hubris and shortsightedness that prevents him from seeing ~~keep~~ the truth in her excuses. As soon as Desdemona asks Othello to "call [Cassio] back," he concludes

her to being an infidel, and is now deaf to her excuses. It is an instant change from a harmonious relationship, to a strife ridden one. There is no in between.

However, it is not just the shortsightedness which the males have towards their wives that cause them to have unhealthy marriages.

When further inspected, we can argue that it is the hidden possessive qualities in the males which aid to the frustration of both men and women in the play. Cassio speaks of Bianca as her "~~hang[ing]~~" "hang[ing] around my neck.. lolling and weeping". As if she is a piece of jewellery he owns or some kind of liability. Othello, similarly, tells Iago of how "we are lucky to call them ours."

It can be thought that this possessive view towards women leaves them feeling disregarded and powerless. However the women in the play are not the only things disregarded or misplaced. The handkerchief given to Desdemona by Othello can be seen as the symbol of their faithfulness and marital exchange. In the losing of this item, Othello believes that they have lost their faithfulness to each other. Many critics argue this, however many believe that on another level, the losing of the handkerchief is another example as to how the possessive tendency over something can render you to become more careless towards it. However this feeling of ~~posse~~ ownership towards women leaves some wanting to stand up for themselves. In a discussion with Desdemona, Emilia tells her to "let men know their wives have sense like them."

Although at first this may seem like a statement to give Desdemona some confidence towards Othello, on another level it is the realisation that women have the power to stand up against oppression and misogyny.

William Shakespeare's Othello is perhaps one of the most layered and scrutinised pieces of literature from the Elizabethan era. It is without doubt that many of the issues raised in Othello are relevant to today's society. However the success and power of the text comes down to the multitude of interpretations that can be drawn from the play. Othello ~~is~~ not simply ~~just~~ a character. He represents the misogynistic mindset which many men had during this era and can still have today. However it is only in recognition of the levels ~~of~~ meaning which Shakespeare brings forth through men and women, their ideals, and ~~symboll~~ symbols, that you can truly fathom the power of this play.

M5

Merit Exemplar 2018

Subject	Level 3 English		Standard	91472	Total score	05
Q	Grade score	Annotation				
7	M5	Othello Sets up the idea of levels, as required by the statement – surface and deeper level. The first point builds a solid argument. Not particularly strong. The candidate gains M5 for what <i>is</i> said and some irrelevancies are ignored.				