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3

91472



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## Level 3 English 2022

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

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.

Do not write in any cross-hatched area (☒). This area may be cut off when the booklet is marked.

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

Excellence

**TOTAL**

**08**

ASSESSOR'S USE ONLY

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Write an essay on at least ONE **written text** that you have studied, in response to ONE of the statements below.

Give the details of the text(s) in the box on page 3.

**WRITTEN TEXTS**

Discuss the extent to which you agree with your chosen statement. Respond critically to the statement by making a close analysis of the text(s).

**STATEMENTS** (Choose ONE)

- \* 1. In a **worthwhile** text, we **gain hope** from the **quality** of the **relationships** in it.
- 2. Recognisable settings in a text make us reconsider the world we live in.
- 3. Characters become convincing by the way they deal with complex decisions.
- \* 4. Readers discover new truths when language is used in unexpected ways.
- \* 5. The lives of unusual characters give us meaningful perspectives on our own reality.
- 6. The most significant ideas in a text are revealed in the detail.
- \* 7. A text that matters challenges us to examine our own lives.
- 8. A good text has one key moment that leads to significant learning.

**Written text type(s):**

Tick (✓) your selection

 Novel Short story Print media Non-fiction Poetry/song lyric Digital/online text Drama script**Title(s):** Mrs Beast & Pygmalions Bride**Author(s):** CAROL ANN DUFFY**PLANNING**

**Question:** In a **worthwhile** text, we gain hope from the **quality** of the **relationships** in it

**Thesis** → NO, Not really. HOPE is not the feeling which duffy wants the readers to gain from the quality of the relationships. It is the quality of the relationships which sparks outrage and the want for change which makes it worthwhile.

**Para # 1** → ~~Mrs Beast~~ Pygmalions bride

- in a normal male dominated r'ship "cold..."
- she is sexually assaulted, controlled "grew warm..."
- Bad quality relationship → Makes us want to squeeze...  
change normal relationship structure → Makes it worthwhile reading as illuminates need for change

**Para # 2** → Mrs Beast

- flipped r'ship structure "laid in my bed ..." "Little Mermaid."
- female dominant relationship → uses beast for sex less... "Let the"
- still a bad quality r'ship → how do we get gender equality? worthwhile as shows that flipped gender roles still create problems (GG quote)

You should aim to write a concise essay of no more than 5–6 pages in length. The quality of your writing is more important than the length of your essay.

In your essay, discuss the extent to which you agree with your chosen statement. Respond critically to the statement by making a close analysis of the text(s).

Begin your written text(s) essay here:

Statement number: 1

\* In a worthwhile text, we gain hope from the quality of the relationships in it.

"Pygmalion's Bride" and "Mrs Beast" are two poems included in Carol Ann Duffy's famous poetic collection called *The World's Wife*. The collection looks at reclaiming the female voice in a patriarchal world through manipulating the male narrative perspectives of traditional fairytales, myths and legends. The stories are instead told through the voices of the previously sidelined and silenced female characters. The quality of the relationships in these poems are poor for the females in them, and it is through illustrating this from the female perspectives that readers are not provided with hope for the future and is what makes Duffy's work so worthwhile and evoking of change.

In Pygmalion's Bride the poem is narrated by Pygmalion's sculptural symbol of desire, Galatea. She comes to life through dramatic monologue and it is clear to the reader that

She is stuck, unwillingly in a 'normal' male dominated relationship. She states that she was "cold like snow, ivory. I thought "he will not touch me" but he did." She shows through this use of simile that Pygmalions touch is unwanted and that she physically tried to make herself as uninviting to the touch as possible. By putting "he will not touch me" in speech Harks Duffy alludes to the idea of consent and Pygmalion not listening to her even though she is telling him no. Furthermore, through verbs such as "he squeezed, he pressed" in connection to him touching her body the quality of this relationship seems violent and sexual from his part but is unwanted and painful from hers. Duffy describes Pygmalions love for Galatea to be comparable to a bruise in this relationship through metaphor when she says "he looked for marks, for purple hearts". It is clear that Pygmalions love is harmful and leaves behind a lasting mark but also shows that he is unable to showcase love through being emotionally available and only knows how to give and receive it through sexual acts. He is looking for love in the wrong places. All of this vivid language is able to highlight that the quality of the relationship which Galatea is in is far from what a human should settle.

with but as a reader we can easily recognise that this type of relationship structure, where the man has all power and control and uses the woman purely for sex, is widely accepted by society. Pygmalion is a symbol (in my eyes) of the media and society. The media batters and sculpts woman (just as Pygmalion did) into what they desire and want us to be and we feel we must conform to this in order to be loved and desired. Through Duffy showcasing the reality of this within Pygmalion and Galateas relationship she certainly doesn't provide us with hope but it is the lack of hope that we feel at the conclusion of reading which makes this text so worthwhile and powerful in evoking change.

Mrs Beast provides readers with a flipped relationship structure where the woman is the most dominant in the relationship and uses the beast purely for sex. The differences between Pygmalions Bride and this text are vast but also share many similarities. Mrs Beasts character is presented as a clear raging feminist. In the first few lines she alludes to the Little Mermaid with a gruesome twist by saying "The Little Mermaid slit her shimmering silver tail in two ribbon cuts into that

stinking wound, got up and walked in agony, in fishnet tights. Stood up and smiled, waltzed all for a prince." Through this viewpoint she shows how women constantly give up on their dreams and sacrifice their comfort, values, beauty for love and therefore also for men. Mrs Beast is instead adamant that she will never sacrifice anything for a man and will stay unloving and unobliging in order to maintain control and power in her relationships. Through metaphor she compares the beast to a pig (dirty filthy animal). She says "the pig in my bed was invited and if his snout and trotters fouled my damask sheets, why then he'd wash them, twice!" Unlike Galatea she maintains control over the male partner in their relationship and promotes that male attention should only ever have to be invited nor powerlessly escaped.

~~Section 1.~~ She also puts the beast in a domesticated role normally seen as the women's place in the partnership. <sup>However,</sup> interestingly by Duffy flipping the relationship dynamic entirely on its head and not only giving Mrs Beast the ability to be seen as one whole half of the relationship but instead going as far as to give her power and complete control over the male counterpart, readers can see that this has not had an... oncitive effect on the

quality of the relationship. In Mrs Beasts quest to eliminate gender inequality by having power over the beast, refusing to show any sign of love and simply using him for his ability to have sex, we can see that she has become the oppressor. Germaine Greer a famous feminist critic once said "reaction is not revolution. It is not an act of revolution if the oppressed adopt the manners of the oppressor and practice oppression on their own behalf." By Duffy showing that even if women were not being the ones oppressed in their relationships the quality of the relationship would still be bad, she makes us wonder whether gender equality is actually possible. In no way, once again, does Mrs Beast provide hope for females. But because we are exposed to what the reality of taking a vulgar and immature approach to feminism may look like, Duffys text is worthwhile as it makes us think about how we can approach a feminist revolution for the future in a balanced and mature way.

Through the differences in relationship structure between Pygmalions Bride and Mrs Ront we are exposed to two different

extremes. One relationship is more comfortable for the reader (in a twisted way) as we are used to male dominance and seeing a woman be controlled and used within her relationship. It is sad that this societal norm has been so deeply engrained that we hardly bat an eye when we continue to hear about relationships such as Pygmalion and Galatea where she is subjected to sexual assault and physical abuse. On the other hand it is unusual and uncomfortable to see a relationship where the woman is in control and sexually liberated but is only able to do so by oppressing the other gender. We are put on edge by Mrs Beasts vulgar qualities and through the difference in these two texts it is interesting to see our <sup>own personal</sup> opinions of how women and relationships should be start to come out and be challenged. However by both relationship qualities being unable to provide any hope for readers in terms of finding a positive future for women in heterosexual relationships with men, ~~Duffy's~~ Duffy's texts are able to become more worthwhile as simply leaving readers with hope and a sense of calm and resolution would not be able to spark

Extra space if required.  
Write the question number(s) if applicable.

purpose for writing these poems and this collection is to challenge the status quo, make us think about our prejudices and advocate for change and quite rightly she would not have been able to do this through providing her readers with a final sense of hope at each poems close.

Overall, Pygmalion's Bride and Mrs Beast are extremely worthwhile texts due to their ability to showcase similar relationship qualities within different relationship structures all while providing an urgent sense of action and change rather than hope. It is in Duffy's skillful ability to present sombre relationships to readers that we gather such deep understanding and meaning whilst reading, which doesn't leave us in a relaxed state of hope but instead has not only triggered our heart but also our head in wanting to create a positive difference towards females.

## Excellence Exemplar 2022

<b>Subject</b>	English	<b>Standard</b>	91472	<b>Total score</b>	08
<b>Q</b>	<b>Grade score</b>	<b>Annotation</b>			
1	E8	<p>The candidate has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• paid close attention to the chosen statement, disagreeing with it in a constructive way</li> <li>• constructed a clear argument that the poet's approach to the relationship, while not hopeful, makes the two poems worthwhile</li> <li>• frequently used well-chosen supporting evidence</li> <li>• integrated theoretical positions – in this case, feminism – into the argument</li> <li>• provided a sense of personal voice through the position taken to gender.</li> </ul>			