

Candidate Style Answers

OCR GCSE English Literature J360

Unit A662 Modern Drama – Examined unit

This Support Material booklet is designed to accompany the OCR GCSE English Literature specification for teaching from September 2010.

Contents

Contents	2
-----------------	----------

Introduction	3
---------------------	----------

A662 Modern Drama

Question	4
Candidate Style Answer A	4
Comments	4
Candidate Style Answer B	5
Comments	5

Introduction

OCR has produced these candidate style answers to support teachers in interpreting the assessment criteria for the new GCSE specifications and to bridge the gap between new specification release and availability of exemplar candidate work.

This content has been produced by subject experts, with the input of Chairs of Examiners, to illustrate how the sample assessment questions might be answered and provide some commentary on what factors contribute to an overall grading. The candidate style answers are not written in a way that is intended to replicate student work but to demonstrate what a “good” or “excellent” response might include, supported by examiner commentary and conclusions.

As these responses have not been through full moderation and do not replicate student work, they have not been graded and are instead, banded “middle” or “high” to give an indication of the level of each response.

Please note that this resource is provided for advice and guidance only and does not in any way constitute an indication of grade boundaries or endorsed answers.

Unit A662 Modern Drama

Question

Sherriff: *Journey's End*

Explore the ways in which Sherriff makes this such a dramatic and significant moment in the play.

Candidate A

In this scene from *Journey's End*, Hibbert is trying to get sent home before the German attack which Stanhope says will happen on Thursday. Hibbert says he has neuralgia. He thinks he can report sick and expects to leave: "I've got all my stuff packed". Stanhope knows that Hibbert is pretending to be ill and is determined that Hibbert stays "and do your job".

The scene is very dramatic. In a way I think that Stanhope understands what Hibbert is feeling, because Stanhope really feels the same way. Stanhope drinks a lot so he doesn't give in to the fear. Stanhope is a good leader as in this scene he makes sure that Hibbert doesn't leave the trenches. He does this by threatening to shoot Hibbert. He gives Hibbert a choice. If Hibbert tries to leave, Stanhope will "have you shot --- for deserting". To be shot by a firing-squad is "a hell of a disgrace". Or, if Hibbert tries to leave the dug-out, Stanhope will shoot him "between the eyes" and say his revolver went off accidentally while he was cleaning it. Really Hibbert has no choice. He will be killed by a firing squad or by Stanhope. Either way he will be dead.

It is very dramatic because Hibbert is so determined to leave the dug-out that he is prepared to let Stanhope shoot him. He tries to get round Stanhope who is blocking the steps out of the dug-out and when he can't get past because Stanhope "turns and thrusts him roughly back" he tries to physically attack Stanhope with his walking-stick. This shows how much he wants to leave the trenches because he could be shot for hitting a superior officer. Stanhope shows respect for Hibbert as he says "I won't have you shot for that". He is giving Hibbert a chance to choose between staying with his fellow-officers or being shot for cowardice.

This scene is very dramatic because it shows how much Stanhope cares about the men he leads and how important it is for men to do their duty in the war.

Commentary

This response shows some understanding of what is dramatic about the extract, seeing the conflict between Stanhope and Hibbert, and something of the physical conflict. It also shows some understanding of Stanhope. It misses out important parts of the extract, such as Stanhope's counting down of the seconds and Hibbert's choosing to be shot rather than go back into the trenches. A middle band response.

Candidate B

This is a very dramatic and significant moment in the play. It shows the pressure that the officers are under. Hibbert claims he has neuralgia and “shall die of this pain” if he is sent down the line, but Stanhope knows that Hibbert is pretending to be sick so he can escape the big German attack expected on Thursday. Osborne has described Stanhope as “the best company commander we’ve got” and in this scene Stanhope shows that he is.

Stanhope understands the pressure the officers are under. As he tells Hibbert later, “I hate and loathe it all” so he drinks to escape. Hibbert is trying physically to escape. The way Stanhope stops him is very dramatic. He is in control of the situation. When Hibbert goes into the dug-out, Stanhope “walks slowly towards the steps ... takes out his revolver, and stands casually examining it”. Hibbert is in a panic. The stage directions show that he speaks “hysterically”, “pleadingly”, “in a whisper” “hoarsely” and “bursts into a high-pitched laugh”.

Stanhope gives Hibbert a choice. He can stay in the trenches, or be shot for deserting. To save him from the disgrace of being shot by a firing-squad for deserting, Stanhope will shoot him himself “I’m fiddling with my revolver, d’you see? --- cleaning it --- and it’s going off by accident ... it’s going to shoot you between the eyes”. Sherriff makes the scene dramatic because Hibbert is so afraid of the trenches that he chooses to be shot by Stanhope; “I swear I’ll never go into those trenches again. Shoot!”. The scene is made more dramatic as Stanhope starts to count down the seconds before he pulls the trigger and the audience is on the edge of its seat to see if he will pull the trigger or not. When Stanhope puts his revolver back in its holster, places his hands on Hibbert’s shoulders and says he admires his courage “I liked the way you stuck that”, it’s almost an anti-climax. But it isn’t really as Stanhope like “the best company commander” he is has given Hibbert the courage to stay “and see it through”. So he has saved Hibbert from disgrace and given his company a better chance by keeping Hibbert in the trenches.

Sherriff makes this a very dramatic scene and shows that Stanhope is a good psychologist. He gets what he wants even though it hurts him. When Hibbert “breaks down and cries” Stanhope “turns away” because he understands Hibbert’s fear and what is likely to happen to them when the German attack begins.

Commentary

This response looks closely at what is dramatic about this moment, selects material to support the interpretation and looks at language, especially of the stage directions to show how Sherriff presents his view of the pressures men are under in time of war. A higher response.