

91472



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SUPERVISOR'S USE ONLY

## 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.**

**Excellence**

TOTAL

**07**

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 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: 5

I <sup>strongly</sup> agree with the statement ~~and~~ that the most successful <sup>people</sup> ~~are those~~ are those that reflect our society in some way. Settings have a lot to teach us and can impact who we are as people, greatly. Where we are born and raised has a large influence on who we grow up to be, ~~as well as~~ where we may work when we are older may, influence on our behaviour, as a result of society around us. This can be seen through the text 'The Bell Jar' by Sylvia Plath. The setting of New York <sup>reflects</sup> ~~reflects~~ society's constant desire to chase something bigger and better. Esther's home reflects ~~society's~~ society's pressure to be successful and the private mental hospital reflects society's inability, particularly back in the 1950s, to deal with mental health.

The setting of New York reflects society's strong desire to strive for ~~something~~ something better. In the novel 'The Bell Jar' the protagonist, receives ~~an~~ an internship <sup>with</sup> at a Fashion Company in New York. To Esther this was supposed to be her ~~big~~ fresh start. Esther has struggled with mental health issues most of her life, ~~however, it isn't until~~ she was a very high achiever and had <sup>won</sup> gained a scholarship ~~into~~ <sup>into</sup> University, <sup>prior to the war</sup> however she has always struggled with self-doubt and low moods. New York isn't at all what she thought it would be, "This was supposed to be the

time of my life," she says. As time goes on she loses interest in the inkship and loses her only friend. ~~Plath's intention for this is to show us that sometimes~~ New York <sup>is</sup> a symbol of hope and the new beginnings for Esther, soon became hell. Plath intended for us to understand that sometimes things are just not what they seem or don't turn out how we would like them to and that's okay. We must be resilient and know that just because something doesn't work out doesn't mean something else won't. New York reflects society, because like Esther who thought New York ~~to~~ would make her happier and wiser, because of where it was, many people in our world today seek places <sup>out</sup> like New York. They believe that by moving to a place bigger and better that they will be more successful. However, what they don't realize is that in places like this, the competition is much stronger too. Our society today is constantly seeking better things. People really struggle to be happy with what they ~~have~~ already have. ~~This often isn't realized until they discover that they~~

<sup>Successful</sup> Another setting that reflects our society is Esther's home. After New York when Esther returns home, she is once again ~~depressed~~ <sup>dejected</sup> to start again, and carry on with life. However, <sup>immediately after returning home</sup> when she receives a letter saying she didn't get into her summer course, and then realizes she has taken the right courses to become an English major, and decides not to write her thesis. From here onwards she sinks deeper and deeper into a dark depression. One morning upon awakening Esther ~~says~~ <sup>thinks</sup> to herself, "I couldn't see the point in getting up. I had nothing to look forward to." Esther spends the rest of the ~~year~~ summer in the setting of her own home, feeling empty and dead inside. She becomes obsessed with death saying, "Death must be so beautiful," and when her mother returns home one day with flowers for

As she reflects with, "Save Mom for my funeral." Her home reflects how society's pressure to be successful. Esther feels like she has failed in life, even though she is only in her early thirties. As a result of mental health issues, she has very little resilience. Each rejection took its toll on her to the point, where she ended up attempting suicide. While in the setting of her house she could hide from the world and these pressures society was putting on her. This isolation led Esther to lose <sup>almost</sup> all ~~friendships~~ relationships, except for that of her mother which she wished she would lose. Her mother ~~was~~ symbolises these pressures from society, creeping into her house. The place Esther thought she was safe. With her mother's constant nagging and ignorance towards Esther's mental illness, Esther felt there was no escape, but to hide in the basement and overdose on pills, to be free. Plath wants us to understand how important it is for <sup>us</sup> as society to actually re-evaluate what we define as successful. Having <sup>lots of</sup> money and flesh material goods, does not determine success. Instead we should measure it more on how hard we are working towards our goals, and the quality of our lives in general. If we are feeling low inside, we must realise the importance of seeking help, because by doing so we are being successful, as we are helping ourselves. It is once we are mentally in a good space that we can try our best to achieve ~~the~~ things we want in life.

I reflected that ~~lack of knowledge and~~

The setting of the private hospital ~~reflects~~ society's inability to deal with mental health back in the 1950s. In the novel, ~~the~~ particularly in the beginning Esther keeps her mental struggles to herself. It isn't until it all gets too much for her, that people start to even notice. Esther's mother doesn't understand at all, but tries to help by sending her to ~~a doctor~~ Dr Gordon, who initially just prescribes her ~~an~~ sleeping pills and then shock treatment, which makes everything much worse.

for Esther, resulting in her ending up in a private mental hospital. In this setting she is surrounded by mentally ill patients, ~~but it wasn't until she is in her that she starts to get better~~ After a slight improvement Esther's mother comes to see her, ~~and~~ showing her ignorance once again when she says, "I knew my baby wasn't like that. I knew you'd decide to be alright again." Like Esther's mother many people back then, and still in our society today think that depression is "just being sad," or anxiety is "just being a bit worried," when actually these ~~can be~~ are very serious and can be life threatening illnesses. Joan, a girl from the mental hospital with Esther, goes on leave one night and she is ~~seen~~ found hanging in the woods. Plath ~~wanted~~ intended for us to realise that people with mental health issues need to be looked after closely. Yes they can be shoved into a mental hospital like Esther and Joan, but when it comes time for them to try again in society, people need to be looking out for them. Someone needed to have been with Joan at all times, but they weren't. Esther needed psychological help long before she tried to kill herself, but she never received it. The setting of the mental hospital symbolises a place separate from society. It represents a place where Esther only got to go to after she tried to ~~commit~~ commit. It reflects how society failed at trying to help these people before they got that low. Esther's friends left her, her mother wasn't supportive and the Doctor she saw was naive and didn't know ~~the~~ how to treat mental health.

Overall I strongly agree with the statement that the most successful settings are those that reflect our society in some way. <sup>especially in</sup> ~~The~~ New York reflected society's desire to chase bigger and better things. Esther's house ~~reflected~~ reflected what society's pressures

can do to a person and how isolated they can leave people. The mental hospital reflected society's failure to help those suffering from mental illness, leading them to be locked away, separate from society. All these were successful settings as they allowed the reader to find a deeper meaning or cause for why Esther ~~ended~~ went to or ended up in the places that she did. From all these settings Plath wants us to understand how important taking care of our mental health is, as no matter where you are, if you're suffering from mental illness, you deserve to get help, ~~and~~ your life will ~~get~~ become so much brighter and you will be so much happier. Never let society's pressures bring you down or change who you are as a person.

## Excellence Exemplar 2018

<b>Subject</b>	Level 3 English	<b>Standard</b>	91472	<b>Total score</b>	07
<b>Q</b>	<b>Grade score</b>	<b>Annotation</b>			
5	E7	The Bell Jar Strong exploration of the text is evident. The candidate grasps the nuances and implications. Introduction sets up an insightful understanding of the statement. The answer is concise and the candidate develops the response to 'our society' and weaves it into the discussion, rather than tagging it on the end of each paragraph. Original argument.			