



Language A: language & literature - written tasks cover sheet

- Please retain a copy of this form either using the **Save as** function or by printing a copy.
- Candidate is to complete the relevant details on this form (personal and subject details on front page, programme and task summaries on the reverse).
- Attach this form to the written task(s) - including rationale for task 1 (HL and SL) and outline for task 2 (HL only).
- Number each page of the written task(s) and ensure that the candidate session number is included on each page of the work.
- After completing this form it must be printed and then signed by the teacher and candidate to confirm the authenticity of the work.

Language studied: Level: Examination session:

Section for examiner use only

Assessment criteria		Examiner 1 Examiner code: <input type="text"/>	Examiner 2 Examiner code: <input type="text"/>	Examiner 3 Examiner code: <input type="text"/>
Written task 1	A (0-2)	2		
	B (0-8)	6		
	C (0-5)	4		
	D (0-5)	5	17	
Written task 2 (HL only)	A (0-2)	2		
	B (0-8)	8		
	C (0-5)	5		
	D (0-5)	5	20	
	Total:	37		

IB Assessment Centre use only: B: A:

093716

Please turn over

International Baccalaureate

1/L&LWT (reverse)

Programme summary:

Give details of the texts and topics studied during each part of the course. For parts 1 and 2, state the topics studied. For parts 3 and 4, state the titles and authors of works studied.

Part 1:	Language in Translation, Language and Power, Language and New Technology, Language and Identity, Evolution of Language
Part 2:	Media Violence, Advertising, News Coverage
Part 3:	Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte, Kiss of the Spider Woman by Manuel Puig, The Yacoubian Building by Alaa Al Aswany
Part 4:	Short Cuts by Raymond Carver, Poetry by Seamus Heaney, Translations by Brian Friel

Task summary: (please complete the relevant section for SL or HL)

Standard level (SL) only:

Number of words in rationale (200-300 words):

Total number of sheets attached:

Number of words in written task (800-1000 words):

Text type:

Higher level (HL) only:

Number of words in task 1 rationale (200-300 words):

269

Total number of sheets attached:

12

Number of words in written task 1 (800-1000 words):

981

Text type (written task 1 only):

speech

Number of words in written task 2 (800-1000 words):

1000

Prescribed question on which task 2 is based: How and why is a social group represented in a particular way?

Candidate declaration: I confirm that this is my own work and is the final version. I have acknowledged each use of the words or ideas of another person, whether written, oral or visual.

Candidate's signature:

Date: 01.03.2013

Teacher declaration: I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, the material submitted is the authentic work of the candidate.

Teacher's name:

Signature

Date: March 1, 2013

Rationale

In class we studied media and bias in media. We looked at different types of bias, worked on identifying them and saw how bias can lead to prejudice and false versions of the truth. We watched the documentary *Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People* based on the book of the same name by Jack Shaheen. This documentary showed how bias in the media has led to the existence of extreme prejudice towards Arabs.

✓ task and
ext

I decided to write a speech by Jack Shaheen for the premiere of the documentary. My goal was to write a speech in which Jack Shaheen shared his personal views on the topic of degradation in the media. I wanted him to give the audience some personal background information on why he chose to dedicate his time to this subject and what led him to write the book. I also let him comment on bias and stereotyping in the media overall.

focus

I read multiple interviews with Jack Shaheen and watched parts of a speech of his to find out how his tone for the speech should be. I decided to write in a style that was fittingly formal for the premiere of the film. I chose to incorporate personal anecdotes and some humorous elements, which he also does in the interviews and the speech I had looked at. By doing so, I wanted to achieve two things. I wanted to ensure that the speech sounded authentic, and at the same time, I wanted to make sure the speech did not sound like a lecture, but rather gave the audience an introduction to the film.

content
and style

Word Count: 269

clear print

Speech by Dr. Jack Shaheen at the screening of the film "Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People" at the Los Angeles premiere of the film

(Dr. Jack Shaheen is the author of the book by the same name, on which the film is based)

an is mehdi

Hello everyone. I have to say it is a real pleasure to be here today in sunny Los Angeles. I am naturally thrilled that so many of you decided to come out today and support this film. I know there are plenty of other box-office movies you could have seen, but that you chose to watch a documentary about stereotyping in mass media instead, means a lot to me.

You know, films are such wonderful creations. I have absolutely loved going to the movies ever since I was a little boy, growing up in Pittsburgh.¹ I remember going to the movies every single Saturday with my grandmother.² My mother worked as a cashier there, so it was a good excuse to take in as many movies as possible.³ I must have seen hundreds of movies as a child. That probably explains my somewhat obsessive passion and interest for film and television and my fascination with the power they have to shape reality.

an is mehdi

¹ "Transcript: ABC News "Nightline: Up Close: Jack Shaheen", Anisa Mehdi, last modified October 10, 2002, accessed February 28, 2013, <http://www.anisamehdi.com/projects/nightlinejackshaheen/transcript.htm>.

² "Transcript: ABC News "Nightline," Anisa Mehdi.

³ "Transcript: ABC News "Nightline," Anisa Mehdi.

When I was a little boy I would watch cartoons on television. But back then I wasn't old and wise enough to realize that the vast majority of these cartoons relied on the stereotyping and negative portrayal of Arabs for their comic and humorous aspects.⁴ It wasn't until I was in my early thirties that I really noticed this.⁵ My children were watching cartoons on television and they basically said: "Daddy, there are bad Arabs on TV".⁶ It's quite sad, actually, that it took me that long to really notice it, but that just shows how harmful racial and ethnical stereotyping can be. The film and television industry has been doing this for so long, even back when there were only silent films, that people have become accustomed to it. They believe that what they see on the screen is a realistic portrayal of Arabs and the Arab world. When I started to work on "Reel Bad Arabs", I thought I would be done after a couple of years. But boy was I wrong!

The trouble was that there were constantly new films coming out which contained even worse portrayals of the Arab world.⁷ So I ended up reviewing over 900 films for this book.⁸ Like I said, I really love movies! Now, what my research showed was that in the majority of these films, Arabs were being stereotyped and portrayed in an extremely negative way. Very few films actually portrayed them in a positive or neutral light, as you will see in the documentary.

The question we should all ask ourselves is why. Why is this the case and why

⁴ James M. Wall, "After 31 Years Jack Shaheen Still Helps Us See "Reel Bad Arabs"," *Wallwritings* (blog), entry posted July 17, 2009, accessed March 1, 2013, [http://wallwritings.me/2009/07/17/after-31-years-jack-shaheen-still-helps-us-see-\"reel-bad-arabs\"/](http://wallwritings.me/2009/07/17/after-31-years-jack-shaheen-still-helps-us-see-\).

⁵ "Transcript: ABC News "Nightline," Anisa Mehdi.

⁶ "Transcript: ABC News "Nightline," Anisa Mehdi.

⁷ Richard H. Curtiss and Delinda C. Hanley, "Dr. Jack Shaheen Discusses Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People," *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*, last modified July 2001, accessed February 28, 2013, <http://www.wrmea.org/component/content/article/227/3788-dr-jack-shaheen-discusses-reel-bad-arabs-how-hollywood-vilifies-a-people.html>.

⁸ Curtiss and Hanley, "Dr. Jack Shaheen Discusses," *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*.

Maintains
a 'voice'
around
cynical

paraphrase?

has this been able to go on for such a long period of time? Well, as always, there's no simple explanation, but ignorance plays a big part in this. Film producers have chosen to ignore the reality of the Arab world and have convinced viewers to do the same.⁹ They are all hiding behind a "wall of ignorance"¹⁰. And of course, that is the easy way out. That's why stereotyping is used so often. It is easier to classify a people as being a certain way than going into detail and actually expressing all the aspects and characteristics they have. But then again, ignorance isn't the main reason, it rather is money. It feels like nowadays everything is solely about money and profit. Vilifying a people, in this case Arabs, and bashing Arabs is done in hundreds of films. And it is always done for the same reason: because that is what people find entertaining, and that is what will make a film a box-office success.¹¹

play on words

(used to identify people?)
implies it's better

Each person in the Arab world is stereotyped in a certain way. The men are presented as hateful, violent, lascivious womanizers, while the maidens, in most cases, are either portrayed as belly dancers or bombers.¹² And Palestinians are always portrayed as terrorists.¹³ In fact, the whole Middle East is presented as a land completely different from other cultures.¹⁴ This implies that the people there cannot be understood by people in the Western World and should

⁹ "Unmasking "The Enemy:" Jack G. Shaheen's "Reel Bad Arabs"," *Pop Theology* (blog), entry posted November 19, 2009, accessed February 28, 2013, <http://www.poptheology.com/2009/11/reel-bad-arabs/>.

¹⁰ Wall, "After 31 Years Jack," *Wallwritings* (blog).

¹¹ Curtiss and Hanley, "Dr. Jack Shaheen Discusses," Washington Report on Middle East Affairs.

¹² "Unmasking "The Enemy:" Jack," *Pop Theology* (blog).

¹³ "Unmasking "The Enemy:" Jack," *Pop Theology* (blog).

¹⁴ Christian Blauvelt, "Aladdin, Al-Qaeda, and Arabs in U.S. film and TV," *Jump Cut*, 1.

therefore not be thought of as human.¹⁵ I'm not saying that there aren't Arabs that embody these stereotypes. What is degrading and hurtful is claiming that all Arabs are this way. That they are all bad people or enemies. We never, or extremely rarely, see ordinary Arabs leading ordinary lives in films. This is what I'm asking for; that Arabs are portrayed just as positively as others. Not better, not worse.

It is important for me to point out that Arabs are not the only people being degraded in the media. Whether this is a good thing or a bad thing, I'm not sure. However, the overall act of stereotyping a certain group of people in a way that is degrading is something we should all aim to eliminate. Not just in films, but in all forms of mass media. There is no appreciation of these people, be they Arabs, Blacks or Asians. Of course, this is not an easy task. But what I want to ask of you who have come today, is to really think about what you see in the documentary. The first step in eliminating this stereotyping is to be informed and educated. Only then can we spot and identify bias, stereotyping and inaccurate portrayals of people in the media. If this film can give you a better understanding of the stereotypes used, and can show you all the harm they can do, then I can say that I have achieved my goal.

Thank you again for coming today and I hope you enjoy the film.

Word Count: 981

¹⁵ Blauvelt, "Aladdin, Al-Qaeda, and Arabs," 1.

A 2
B 6
C 4
D 5

wides
hope

Bibliography

- Blauvelt, Christian. "Aladdin, Al-Qaeda, and Arabs in U.S. film and TV." *Jump Cut*, 1.
- Curtiss, Richard H., and Delinda C. Hanley. "Dr. Jack Shaheen Discusses Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People." Washington Report on Middle East Affairs. Last modified July 2001. Accessed February 28, 2013. <http://www.wrmea.org/component/content/article/227/3788-dr-jack-shaheen-discusses-reel-bad-arabs-how-hollywood-vilifies-a-people.html>.
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- Wall, James M. "After 31 Years Jack Shaheen Still Helps Us See "Reel Bad Arabs"." *Wallwritings* (blog). Entry posted July 17, 2009. Accessed March 1, 2013. [http://wallwritings.me/2009/07/17/after-31-years-jack-shaheen-still-helps-us-see-\"reel-bad-arabs\"/](http://wallwritings.me/2009/07/17/after-31-years-jack-shaheen-still-helps-us-see-\).
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Outline

- The prescribed question that has been chosen:
How and why is a social group represented in a particular way?

- The text for analysis:
The Yacoubian Building by Alaa Al Aswany

- Part of the course to which the task refers:
Part 3

- Focus of the task:
 1. Representation of women in The Yacoubian Building
 - role of women, women's rights and their place in the Egyptian society of the 1970s
 - three main female characters for consideration:
Busayna, Souad, Dawlat ✓

 2. The effects on women of living in a socially corrupt society
 - corruption exists in all parts of society and it is through corruption that the wealthy continue to prosper
 - women are forced to subject themselves to degradation in order to support themselves and their families
 - women's position in society gives them fewer rights, more rules and restrictions are set in place for them and they are seen as inferior to men
→ these circumstances lead poor/lower class women to be forced to sacrifice their dignity, virtue and self-respect in order to support their families and earn their livelihood ✓

 3. Women in different social classes
 - lower class: Busayna, Souad
 - upper class: Dawlat
 - treated differently, different rules apply to upper class women, they have more rights and freedom than lower class women
→ shows that social status/wealth is the key to a better life, better living standards and more rights
 - lower class women suffer more hardships due to their lack of money:
e.g. Busayna has to meet her boss' sexual desires to earn extra money and Souad is forced to leave her son and marry another man to earn money to support her son ✓

 4. Why does Al Aswany portray women in this particular way?
 - he attempts to unveil the corruption of the Egyptian society
 - to show the unjust treatment of women and the degradation they are subjected to
 - by showing this he also shows the discrepancies between wealthy and poor, how wealthy women automatically have more rights and are ultimately in a much better position ✓

How and why is a social group represented in a particular way?

Literature can be seen as a platform for authors to share their opinions or emotions, to voice concerns, applaud achievements or raise awareness of injustices. In his novel The Yacoubian Building, Alaa Al Aswany takes advantage of his role as an author to reveal the position of women in Egyptian society in the 1990s. We encounter women from different social classes: the poor, who suffer from degradation and life in a corrupt society, as well as the wealthy, who enjoy greater freedom and power. Through their representation, Al Aswany attempts to unveil the corruptness of the Egyptian society, the degradation and subjugation of women that occurs in it, as well as the existing disparities between the wealthy and the poor.

Busayna, a lower-class woman, is forced to find a job after her father's death to provide her family with enough money to pay for "schooling, food, clothes, and rent" (Al Aswany 40). Feeling a sense of duty and responsibility, she goes through countless jobs in the course of one year. She does not, however, lose her jobs because of her incompetence, but rather because she refuses to endure the sexual advances by her bosses. "The older man would insist on kissing her by force (...) or press up against her, or start opening his fly (...)" (Al Aswany 42). Busayna is unwilling to give up her dignity, virtue and self-respect, and thus loses job after job.

"A clever girl can look after herself and keep her job" (Al Aswany 42) is what Busayna's mother tells her. This shows the mindset of the people and

underlines the fact that women are expected to accept sexual harassment and *in terrorem* degradation by men. Busayna cannot escape these expectations and sees herself forced to find a job to provide for her family. She has no choice but to start working for Mr. Talal, a storeowner, who, just as her previous bosses, "never raised his eyes from her chest and body while he spoke" (Al Aswany 44).

The effects of living in a socially corrupt society are evident in Busayna's contrasting attitudes before and after experiencing degradation and sexual harassment. "Busayna was studying for a commercial diploma and had dreams for the future that it would never have occurred to her might not come true" (Al Aswany 40). Her optimism and ambitions quickly turn to bitterness and disillusionment. "She would go for days depressed and melancholy" (Al Aswany 46) and "had become crueler, and more bitter" (Al Aswany 160).

rel. example
Souad Gaber, another lower-class woman, sees herself forced to marry Hagg Azzam, a rich businessman, in order to earn money so she can provide for her son and give him a better life. Hagg Azzam wishes for a second wife to fulfill his sexual desires, and when his choice falls on Souad, she has no say in the decision. Hagg and Souad's brother decide and agree on everything, including the conditions set in place by Hagg to ensure his own demands are met by the "business transaction" (Al Aswany 54), to which the process is likened. In this case the woman is being objectified and treated as the property of men. Here, the inferiority of women, as well as their lack of rights and freedom, becomes evident. Souad has no say in the conditions on which she is to be married off, and thus cannot object the fact that she is to leave her son behind and only see him

when granted permission by Hagg. Hagg also makes it clear that he "had no desire whatsoever for offspring" (Al Aswany 55). When Souad becomes pregnant, "she refuses the very idea of an abortion" (Al Aswany 170). For Hagg the pregnancy threatens his perfect plan, and he thus has Souad aborted by force. "They (...) pounced on her", "smothered her mouth", "tied her up" (Al Aswany 177). These descriptions illustrate the complete disregard of a woman's rights and opinions and underline the subjugation experienced by women. *clear ex ample*

Souad suffers and endures numerous hardships. She cannot see her son, is aborted by force, and is married to a man for whom she has no affection or love. "She feels nauseated whenever she touches his body" (Al Aswany 126). Her sole reason for subjecting herself to this treatment is her son's wellbeing. "She would give the Hagg her body in return for her son's expenses" (Al Aswany 128). A woman's body can be seen as a bargaining tool; something men will accept in return for money. Women are hereby put down to the level of objects that can be bought and sold whenever it is deemed fit by men.

Through Busayna and Souad's characters, Al Aswany reveals the difficulties lower-class women face as they struggle to make ends meet. The need for money to support their families is too great, and women are left with no other option but to subject themselves to degradation for the sake of their family's wellbeing.

develop in Outline

Not all women, however, suffer hardships such as degradation and sexual harassment by men. One such example is Dawlat, a wealthy upper-class woman,

who does not know the degradation lower-class women endure. Dawlat is a woman of power and in no way inferior to any man. In an attempt to secure the family's apartment for herself, she lays a plan and is able "by means of influence and bribes to get all the officers on her side" (Al Aswany 212). In Dawlat's case, none of the rules or restrictions set in place for women apply. Her wealth and social class are thus the key to her increased rights, greater respect and ultimately better life.

The way in which women of different social classes are treated emphasizes the hypocrisy of the society, in which rules exist, however, one main exception to these rules is a person's wealth and social status.

Through his portrayal of women from both the upper and lower class, Al Aswany shows the existing disparities between the wealthy and the poor and the difficulties especially lower-class women face in society. Al Aswany attempts to reveal the unjust treatment of women and the degradation and subjugation they are subjected to, as well as to underline the fact that their position is worsened due to the social corruptness of the Egyptian society.

Word Count: 1000

*clearly
developed
and well understood*

A 2
B 3
C 5
D 5

Works Cited

Aswany, Alaa Al. *The Yacoubian Building*. London: Harper Perennial, 2007. Print.
