

Consider how other interpretations of a text helped you evaluate its perspective/s.

### Question 8: Sample response two

This is a successful response due to the candidate's own use of voice in order to communicate an evaluation of their studied text. They attempt to evaluate their text by using first-person pronouns as well as indicating factors of their own context that have shaped their interpretation of the perspectives in their studied text. A weakness in this response is the lack of detail provided about the text's central concerns and the perspectives explored. The candidate has indicated that by considering other interpretations of the characters, they are able to evaluate these character perspectives; however, they needed to provide further evidence from the text in order to support this part of their discussion.

In many texts, using an alternative interpretation of key groups and notions can help the audience evaluate the vast perspective it conveyed. The Return is a 2003 play, by Reg Cribb, exploring the journeys and conflicts between five different socio-demographic characters on board a train to Fremantle. When considering other interpretations of The Return, I gained a greater understanding on the perspective of the different groups explored such as the ex-convicts, representation of women, and how my interpretation conflicts with the alternative perspectives. This text uses characterisation and colloquial language to represent and build these interpretations.

The ex-convict group of Steve and Trev are constructed as being the very low socio-demographic classed citizens, who are represented as outcasts and menaces to society. After my reading of The Return, Steve's alpha like and toxic masculinity action of psychologically torturing an innocent (victim) passenger Lisa (a law student) on the train originally positioned me to severely dislike Steve. However, after considering an alternative interpretation that Steve and Trev are forgotten and left to rot by society after their prison sentences, helps me evaluate its perspective of the group as less fortunate as they are 'outcast' and segregated, left with no opportunities. This is backed up by Steve and Trev's interaction talking about jobs to apply for. 'Any jobs in the paper today?' Steve asks Trev. 'None that we are qualified for,' is Trev's reply. The sad reality of having no chance to assimilate back into society backs up the importance of considering alternative perspectives on groups

Whilst the candidate is attempting to engage with the question, they need to clarify what they mean by 'key groups and notions'.

This is a succinct summary of their studied text, but it might be useful to elaborate upon the socio-demographics of the characters in order to contextualise the text for an examiner.

The candidate attempts to use key words and phrases of the question; however, their overall introduction structure needs better organisation in order to clarify how they are approaching this question.

The candidate provides a clear topic sentence that provides an interpretation of specific characters within the play.

Here, the candidate identifies an initial interpretation of the character of Steve in order to explore how this interpretation was altered once they considered an alternative way of looking at his character. They also utilise phrases like 'helps me evaluate' and first-person pronouns in order to articulate their evaluation.

The candidate further explores their interpretation by discussing character perspective in more detail and by providing textual evidence in support of their points.

in society – and the reasoning behind their actions. The colloquial language of slang being used such as 'bloody hell' or 'fuckin rat' and so on, helps to convey the perspective of a more unintelligent representation. However, when considering alternative perspectives, Steve's intellectual and general knowledge and values of freedom of speech help present another perspective of prisoners to be no different or less intelligent than the rest of society.

Another perspective represented in The Return is the interpretation that the text is trying to convey that women in society are helpless victims to men's forceful and manipulative actions in society. Lisa is represented as an intelligent, private and socially aware law student. Lisa at the beginning of the text backs up this representation of women, as she is seen opening up to Steve about most people she meets 'either want to sell you something or fuck you.' This victimised representation of women is then backed up by Steve's manipulative nature of getting her to dance with him, which sets a very dark and intense tone due to his continuous psychological torture. However, when Maureen entered the train, she represented an experienced, non-tolerant attitude to the ex-convicts aggressive and manipulative behaviour. This alternative perspective on women in society is easily identified when evaluating alternative interpretations other than my own.

As an Australian student who lives and catches this train practically every day to and from school, my original interpretations are justified by the reality of my experiences on the Fremantle line train, as verbal harassment and toxic masculinity is very present. This sad reality of my perspective that I am currently experiencing is that these conditions have not improved since the play was made (2003) and they are still not improving.

Through evaluating other interpretations of The Return and perspectives on the ex-criminal outcasts and women in society, I have gained a helpful analysis

The point the candidate makes here about how understanding Steve's character helps them to understand the perspective of prisoners within society is a straightforward attempt to answer the question.

Again, the candidate opens their paragraph with a clear topic sentence that attempts to address key parts of the question.

The candidate provides clear textual evidence to support their argument about the representation of women within this text, and embeds this evidence fluently within their paragraph.

Here, the candidate attempts to articulate an alternative interpretation of women in the text; however, they need to elaborate upon their points and provide further textual evidence in order to strengthen their engagement with the question.

In this paragraph, the candidate outlines some of their own contextual factors that influence their interpretation of the text's perspective. This demonstrates an understanding that our interpretations of texts can be shaped by our own context. Structurally, this might have been more effective as a paragraph in the opening of their response.

It is pleasing to note that the candidate is not afraid to use first-person pronouns in their response and this assists them in articulating their personal evaluation of the play.



when looking into the complexities of these perspectives in society. Cribb has helped generate these complexities through the inclusion of specific details that may not be recognised completely by readers. This was evident through the representation of privileges obtained by higher socio-economic classes that are ignorant and unseeing of these issues in society.

Again, to strengthen their discussion, it might be useful for the candidate to elaborate upon these issues throughout their response in order to evaluate the perspective/s of this studied text.