Mark	AO	Typical features of response	How to arrive at a mark
Level 6 Convincing, critical analysis and exploration 26–30 marks	AO1	Critical, exploratory comparison     Judicious use of precise references to support interpretation(s)	At the top of the level, a candidate's response is likely to be a critical, exploratory, well-structured comparison. It takes a conceptualised approach to the full task supported by a range of judicious references. There will be a fine-grained and insightful analysis of language and form and structure supported by judicious use of subject terminology. Convincing exploration of one or more ideas/perspectives/contextual factors/interpretations.
	AO2	<ul> <li>Analysis of writer's methods with subject terminology used judiciously</li> <li>Exploration of effects of writer's methods on reader</li> </ul>	
	AO3	Exploration of ideas/perspectives/contextual factors shown by specific, detailed links between context/text/task	At the bottom of the level, a candidate will have Level 5 and be starting to demonstrate elements of exploratory comparison and/or analysis of writer's methods and /or contexts.
Level 5  Thoughtful, developed consideration 21–25 marks	AO1	Thoughtful, developed comparison Apt references integrated into interpretation(s)	At the top of the level, a candidate's response is likely to be thoughtful, detailed and developed. It takes a considered approach to the comparison with references integrated into interpretation; there will be a detailed examination of the effects of language and/or structure and/or form supported by apt use of subject terminology. Examination of ideas/perspectives/contextual factors, possibly including alternative interpretations/deeper meanings.
	AO2	Examination of writer's methods with subject terminology used effectively to support consideration of methods     Examination of effects of writer's methods on reader	
	AO3	Thoughtful consideration of ideas/perspectives/contextual factors shown by examination of detailed links between context/text/task	At the bottom of the level, a candidate will have Level 4 and be starting to demonstrate elements of thoughtful comparison and/or examination of writer's methods and/or thoughtful consideration of contexts.
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evel 4 Clear Inderstanding	AO1	Clear comparison     Effective use of references to support explanation	At the top of the level, a candidate's response is likely to be clear, sustained and consistent. It is a focused comparison which demonstrates clear understanding. It uses a range of references effectively to illustrate and justify explanation; there will be clear explanation of the effects of a range of writer's methods supported by appropriate use of subject terminology. Clear understanding of ideas/perspectives/contextual factors.
6–20 marks	AO2	Clear explanation of writer's methods with appropriate use of relevant subject terminology     Understanding of effects of writer's methods on reader	
	AO3	Clear understanding of ideas/perspectives/ contextual factors shown by specific links between context/text/task	
			At the bottom of the level, a candidate will Level 3 and be starting to demonstrate elements of clear comparison and/or clear explanation of writer's methods and/or clear understanding of contexts.
evel 3 Explained, structured comments	AO1	Some explained comparison     References used to support a range of relevant comments	At the top of the level, a candidate's response is likely to be explanatory in parts. includes a structured focus on comparison with a range of points exemplified by relevant references from the text; there will be identification of effects of a range of writer's methods supported by some relevant terminology. Explanation of some relevant contextual factors.
	AO2	Explained/relevant comments on writer's methods with some relevant use of subject terminology     Identification of effects of writer's methods on reader	
	AO3	Some understanding of implicit ideas/ perspectives/contextual factors shown by links between context/text/task	At the bottom of the level, a candidate will have Level 2 and be starting to make some structured comparison and/or make relevant comments on writer's methods and/or contexts.

Level 2 Supported, relevant comments	AO1	Supported comparison     Comments on references  Identification of writer's methods     Some reference to subject	At the top of the level, a candidate's response is likely to be relevant and supported by some explanation. It will include some focus on comparison with relevant comments and some supporting references from the text. There will be identification of effects of deliberate choices made by writer with some reference to subject terminology. Awareness of some contextual factors.
6–10 marks	AO3	Some awareness of implicit ideas/contextual factors	At the bottom of the level, a candidate's response will have Level 1 and be starting to focus on comparison and/or starting to show awareness of the writer making choices and/or awareness of contexts.
Level 1 Simple, explicit comments	AO1	Simple comments relevant to comparison     Reference to relevant detail(s)	At the top of the level, a candidate's response is likely to be narrative and/or descriptive in approach. It may include awareness of similarity or difference and provide appropriate reference to text; there will be simple identification of method with possible reference to subject terminology. Simple comments/responses to context, usually explicit.
1–5 marks	AO2	Awareness of writer making deliberate choices     Possible reference to subject terminology	
	AO3	Simple comment on explicit ideas/contextual factors	At the bottom of the level, a candidate's response will show some familiarity with the text.
0 marks	Nothing worthy of credit/nothing written		