### Question

Context—historical, cultural or social—can have an influence on the way literary works are written or received. Discuss with reference to at least two of the works you have studied.

**Assessment**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Criterion** | **A** | **B** | **C** | **D** | **E** | **Total** |
| **Marks available** | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 25 |
| **Marks awarded** | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 19 |

**Criterion A**

The essay clearly outlines the setting for both works (11th century Scotland for *Macbeth* and the American South during the Depression years for *To Kill a Mockingbird*). In both cases the candidate is well aware of the historical, cultural and social contexts being reflected in the texts. The candidate equates context with setting at the start, but then moves on to discuss the specific contexts being referred to in the question. The social context of the class system, gender issues and racial prejudice are illustrated quite well in Lee’s work. The cultural contexts of the mystic supernatural elements of *Macbeth* were pertinently developed along with the effect on the Christian audience.

**Criterion B**

The consistent focus on the contextual elements show a good understanding of the question. The candidate is consistently relevant (“as the society lives in a strict class system based on conservative ideals” and “Macbeth also makes no openly critical statements about kingship and monarchy and promotes simply the idea that the crown should pass to its rightful owner”). These contextual statements are illustrated with appropriate examples from the two texts. The candidate is also able to distinguish between the time periods of the setting with the situations affecting the authors.

**Criterion C**

While there is an adequate awareness of some of the stylistic features such as characterization, plot and setting, there is only an assumed sense of the genre for each of the works. The differences between the genres of drama and prose fiction are largely ignored.

**Criterion D**

The essay begins with a marginal introduction but ends with a more than fair conclusion. The essay is consistent in its focus and the transitions between the works and the ideas in the different paragraphs are effective.

**Criterion E**

While there are some awkward moments, there are also some sophisticated expressions (“The setting of the action that happens in a literary work gives a specific environment and contributes to the atmosphere of it thus giving an adequate framework for the ideas which the work must express to the reader.”). For the most part the candidate shows a good grasp of the language and uses the appropriate register effectively to develop the ideas.