### 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** | 5 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 23 |

**Criterion A**

Historical, cultural and social contexts provide the focus for this essay. The history of Afghanistan and the oppression of Maori people provide the backdrop for the candidate to discuss all three of the contexts mentioned: “The idea that it is not just the protagonist who is shaped by the past but also Afghanistan as a whole”. The essay begins with a discussion of the troubled history of Afghanistan in *The Kite Runner* and the oppression of the Maori by European settlers in *Bulibasha*. These particular histories are shown to lead to the social problem of racial discrimination in both works and the subsequent cultural issues that arise.

**Criterion B**

The candidate shows an excellent appreciation and understanding of how context is established (“The social and cultural settings of the two novels are shaped by their individual historical contexts”) and provides an insightful argument around the question: “To the readers this not only depicts the authors opinion on cultural and religious conditions in Afghanistan, but also provides a greater understanding of why Afghanistan is repeatedly in conflict.”

**Criterion C**

The candidate shows a good awareness of basic stylistic features such as setting, characterization (“Assef’s character is used to symbolize the oppression of the Hazaras”), plot, dialogue and narrative point of view: “This use of first person narrative allows the reader to form a more intimate relationship with Simeon.” The candidate is also able to discuss effectively some of the effects of these authorial choices: “Assef’s character is used to symbolize the oppression of the Hazaras in Afghanistan and the powerful theme of rape makes the reader understand how Hazaras are often seen as worthless…”

**Criterion D**

This essay is precisely organized with a very good introduction (establishing the context of the two works) and a fair conclusion tying together all the ideas. The ideas are sequential and thoroughly developed.

**Criterion E**

Language is very clear, carefully chosen with a very appropriate register. The few awkward expressions and the punctuation errors do not affect understanding