

Class 11 VCE English 2020: Unit 2, Outcome 1: Reading & Comparing:

Brave New World & 1984 Assessment Outline

Your Task: Write a 900-1200 word essay that compares and contrasts the similarities and differences in themes, issues and ideas, and how these are presented through textual features.

Note – if you go below 900 words you will lose marks – the further under, the more marks. Going above will depend on how much is necessary, and how much could be cut.

Make sure to put a word-count.

When: To be written on Wednesday, September 9. I will email you out the exact essay topics on late Tuesday afternoon & upload to the Website. **You may begin planning, but cannot begin the essay itself until Wednesday.** After completing your daily Parzival work on Wednesday, you can have the rest of the day – until **4pm** – to complete and submit the essay.

Submission: you may submit either a typed copy, or photos of a hand-written copy of the essay. If hand-written, you will also need to send to school the physical copy on the final Drop-Off/Pick-Up (hopefully on the last day of term) or through another arrangement.

Essay topics: Please find below keyword/s of each essay topic, so that you can start planning right away, and so that when you are researching (reading the themes and other handouts) – you know what information you are looking for (info that is relevant to your chosen topic!).

Compare:

1. **Heroes:** Consider: how does each text deal with the theme of heroism? Are there any heroes? What makes them heroes, or not heroes? What is each author trying to communicate about heroism as an aspect of humanity? or related themes?
2. **Better worlds:** this will ask you to investigate and compare how the system portrayed in each text tries to provide a better world for its citizens.
3. **Nature** and its consequences/challenges in each text (what *kind* of nature? It is not specified! This gives flexibility to define 'nature' in ways that give you more to compare and analyse. Could also look at how each system tries to deal with 'nature' (because they are aware of its power).
4. **Happiness:** this topic will provide you with two quotes about happiness (one from each text) – you will need to contextualise each quote in your introduction, before launching into a discussion of happiness in each text, *as well as anything else that is suggested in the quotes provided in the essay topic*. See Textbook page 118 for advice on how to write an essay based on quotes.
5. **Hope.** Normally I would not let you write on the same topic that I have provided my notes for; but these are special times. I **only want you to choose this topic** if you are really struggling / need the help. If this is you, then I am more than happy for you to choose this topic.

Sample topic: your essay topic will look something like this following model:

'compare how each text explores the question of what it means to be human'

What you may use:

Whatever resources you like, so long as:

- > you do not start writing the essay before the date of the SAC;
- > no one helps you on the day of the SAC;
- > all work is yours and solely yours.

If either of these conditions are not met, you will automatically fail the SAC.

Assessment Criteria: *please see attached sheet "Assessment Criteria Breakdown" for more info on how to address each criteria.*

- 1. Comparison of ideas, issues & themes:** (similarities & differences)
- 2. How authors convey meaning** (textual features) *If you can draw some comparisons, do, but not vitally important.*
- 3. Use of textual evidence** (quotes and references to the text)
- 4. Structure & conventions of comparative essay writing** (properly structured paragraphs; using the language of comparison)
- 5. Clarity & fluency of writing** including accurate spelling and punctuation

I have provided lots of documentation on how to break down a sample topic, how to structure and write introductions and body paragraphs.

If you want more info, or if you want it presented in a different way – **why not read your Textbook!**

There is a whole chapter on how to write a Comparison Essay: Chapter 10: Writing a Comparative Text Response

What now? If you have not yet – read the document 'Essay Planning – the first step' – and follow the advice.