**Examiner's comments**

**Criterion A - Knowledge and understanding - 5 marks**

The essay demonstrates an understanding of the works and knowledge of the contexts in which they were written. The student shows how context affects interpretations of the texts.

***4 out of 5 -*** *It is clear that the candidate has read and understood the main ideas of both literary works. The points that the candidate makes about atheism are relevant and clearly connected to the works. However, the degree to which the candidate shows how context affects interpretations of the texts is rather limited.*

**Criterion B - Response to the question - 5 marks**

A Paper 2 essay should focus on the question chosen. The implications of the exam question need to be explored in depth, and the student's response must be relevant to it.

***4 out of 5 -****There is a problem with the exam question: It is a closed question. This creates a problem for the candidate. The main thrust of the question concerns the nature of literature and not the literary works that the candidate has read. Nevertheless the candidate deals with this quite strategically by commenting on the literary qualities of these memoirs, the degree to which they reflect their worlds and their ability criticize these worlds. Words such as 'rebel', 'stand up to' and 'break free' connect to the idea of 'challenge'. The author does explores other aspects of the question as well, such as 'literary merit' and 'spirit of the times'.*

**Criterion C - Understanding of the use and effects of stylistic features - 5 marks**

In the Paper 2 exam, a connection needs to be made between the author's use of stylistic features and the effect of them on his or her audience. As Paper 2 questions invite students to explore how meaning is shaped by context, answers will have to explain why authors choose for a certain genre, narrative technique or structure.

***3 out of 5 -****The candidate touches on the stylistic features and their effects on the reader in passing. Some points concerning stylistic features are not explored in depth however. For example the candidate explains that Richard Wright's anecdotes are told through 'an intriguing use of first person narrative, where Richard is not the obvious hero.' What makes this perspective 'intriguing'? There are more examples of stylistic features that are only mentioned in passing, such as those that are 'characteristic' of the graphic novel.*

**Criterion D - Organization and development** **- 5 marks**

The essay must develop an answer to the question coherently and effectively. Topic sentences should guide the ideas of paragraphs. Illustrations should be integrated well and explanations should shed light on the subject matter.

***3 out of 5 -*** *From the beginning of the essay, it is not clear how the thesis will develop. Is 'memoir', as a literary text type, the main concern of the essay? Is the essay about atheism, as the main message of the authors? Although the essay returns to the main ideas of the question, the coherence lacks in places.*

**Criterion E - Language - 5 marks**

The language of the Paper 2 exam should be effective and accurate. The choice of vocabulary and use of grammar should be consistent and appropriate.

***5 out of 5 -*** *The candidate uses English accurately and effectively. The candidate describes a 'protagonist' who is 'beset on all sides with injustice' for example, which indicates a sophisticated level of word choice.*