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## Example 1—English A: language and literature SL paper 2

### Assessment

Criterion	A	B	C	D	E	Total
Marks available	5	5	5	5	5	25
Marks awarded	5	4	5	4	5	23

### Criterion A

The candidate shows **very good knowledge of the texts** and thoroughly demonstrates **the way that context affects their meaning**. In the analysis of *Midaq Alley*, the candidate is able to look at the tensions between traditional and modern and to argue that the reader is drawn into debating these aspects rather than simply being passive. **Understanding is very good** with a subtle **awareness** of the way ideas can be both comforting and challenging in the discussion of the ambivalent attitudes towards corruption by the slum dwellers in *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*.

## Criterion B

Awareness of the expectations of the question is good and the candidate is able to define the terms of the question clearly, although a more detailed explanation of how they might be understood and an investigation of alienation would have been useful. The response is mostly relevant with some good transitions from traditions as comforting to the fact that some can be dangerous or threatening and distinctly unromantic. This is coupled with a clear analysis of the way ambiguity and ambivalence can give issues like corruption both comforting and alienating aspects.

## Criterion C

There is some very good analysis of stylistic features with excellent use of quotation to illustrate this analysis. Detailed examination of features, such as the comparison of *Midaq Alley* to a book and the way characters like Manju in *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* “objectify” themselves and lose their identity in an attempt to find escape through appealing to others, is very good and links effectively to the way the reader is made to reflect on his or her own identity. Detailed examination of stylistic features like the motif of water in *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* is also good and gives detailed support to the argument being put forward.

## Criterion D

Focus and structure are good. The opening could set out its thesis more firmly and give an idea of how the argument is likely to proceed. In general, however, the argument proceeds well, even if not all the transitions are as effective as they might be, as in that from morality to appearance and reality. The conclusion is rather thin but this does not detract overall from a generally clear argument throughout supported by effective deployment of evidence.

## Criterion E

This is a very well-written piece and language is very clear and carefully chosen with an effective and appropriate use of register. Complex ideas are clearly described with the effective integration of quotation and evidence.



[Student work](#)

