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Example 2—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	4	4	4	3	4	19

Criterion A

There is some unevenness in the response with very good knowledge of *A Doll's House* contrasting with a less full presentation of *Things Fall Apart*. There are good attempts to address context in the examination of Eurocentric views of Africa in *Things Fall Apart* and in the initial reception of *A Doll's House*. Understanding is good and there is **generally good use of textual evidence to support the argument**; there is, however, a tendency to assert where a certain tentativeness would be better. The focus on Mrs Linde and Torvald is a little distracting at first but generally the account of *A Doll's House* is relevant.

Criterion B

Awareness of the expectations of the question is good and the candidate makes a good attempt to respond clearly to the question and develop the argument with a mostly relevant response. The integration of the Stratton criticism, although not fully effective, is still useful in setting up the idea that *Things Fall Apart* is ultimately comforting to the reader in that it represents Africa more positively than European texts about the continent through its challenge to Eurocentric views.

Criterion C

There is some good analysis, particularly of diction both in the examination of the “orality” of *Things Fall Apart* and in the way Torvald diminishes Nora through his use of pet names, with good use of quotation to support this. Character in both novels is analysed effectively, as is structure. The analysis gives some indication of the effect on the audience and is generally well supported by textual evidence.

Criterion D

Focus and structure are adequate. There is, however, some imbalance; *A Doll’s House* is handled in greater detail and with fuller reference than *Things Fall Apart*. The introduction is clear but the thesis could be more clearly explained, going beyond a repetition of the question and being given as a clear statement followed by an indication of how the argument will proceed. However, the conclusion does pick up the main points made. Links are sometimes rather abrupt and without a clear transition, as in the move from the analysis of Stratton’s article on *Things Fall Apart* to discussion of gender roles in Ibsen with no connection being argued.

Criterion E

This is a generally well-written piece and language is clear and effective with an appropriate use of register. Quotation is well integrated.



[Student work](#)



[Assessment comments](#)