

IB English III HL Y1: *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw

For each of the following questions choose **ONLY 1** to address. Your response must provide your assertion, integrated evidence from *Pygmalion* to back up your point and provide an example from modern day society. In addition to your response, find a visual (an advertisement, screenshot of commercial still, a mural, a comic strip, magazine cover, billboard, art, album cover etc...) that comments/provides insight on your assertion and/or topic. (Your response should be at least 250-500 words, double-space, Times New Roman, 12-point font, should use proper, formal academic language, and include word count at the end.) This assignment is **due on September 7, 2021**, but you may turn it in beforehand.

Choose **ONE** of the following questions to address:

1. How do physical and verbal characteristics mark characters as members of a particular social class?
2. How are Victorian standards represented and what does that reflect of the time period?
3. How is irony and satire utilized within the text and for what purposes?
4. What is the text suggesting about language?

EXAMPLE Provided Below:

Sample Question:

How does George Orwell, in his literary text *1984*, attempt to warn the reader about the emotional and physical effects of an over-powering government?

Sample Answer:

Firstly, Orwell portrays that modifying history can shift reality and control knowledge within a society. The concept of modifying history is depicted when Winston realizes that “In the end the Party would announce that two and two made five, and you would have to believe it. It was inevitable that they should make that claim sooner or later: the logic of their position demanded it” (Orwell 80). Unlike the beginning of the novel, within this quote the reader can determine that Winston feels powerless because he is unable to truly know anything since the past is interchangeable. Additionally, the rising action of the plot reveals to the reader an anxious tone that further depicts the impact that reality control is having on Winston’s emotional responses. Because Winston is controlled by the party, he lacks the knowledge to go against their

beliefs and therefore feels powerless. He is stuck. This further elevates the reader's understanding of the impact of reality control because it is clear that since Winston is not a high-status individual, he lacks agency and is unable to choose the life he wants. Winston also knows that a "Party intellectual would over-throw him in debate, the subtle arguments which he would not be able to understand, much less answer" would force him to succumb to the party. (Orwell 81). This quote sheds light on the influence that modifying and controlling history has on the knowledge of a society because Winston only knows what the party wants him to know. So, Winston is depicted as a round character within this excerpt of the novel because the author allows the reader to understand a different side of Winston's characterization. At the beginning of the novel, the author portrays Winston as an ordinary individual of society, but now the reader can examine that Winston is unhappy and feels like an outcast. Because of its content, the evidence shown above also gives insight to the reader about the power dynamics within a totalitarian society. It is clear that knowledge is a main component of power and because Winston cannot obtain that knowledge, he is unable to have power. So, Orwell portrays the concept of reality control and the impact that an abusive government can have on the identity of a character by specifically discussing the modification of history and the controlling of knowledge.

Secondly, a government instilling fear in its citizen, like the party does to Winston, can often lead to rebellion and disobedience within a society. For example, at the beginning of the chosen excerpt, Winston believes that "He might be alone in holding that belief, and if alone, then a lunatic. But the thought of being a lunatic did not greatly trouble him: the horror was that he might also be wrong" (Orwell 80). Winston is willing to go against society and follow his instinct. Although, the reader starts to see that Winston is fearful of the government and is afraid

to take the risk of being wrong with his belief. This sheds light on Winston's characterization in which he is not a regular citizen of society, but an outcast. Additionally, Winston's characterization allows the reader to foreshadow his rebellion against the government, that occurs later on in the novel, because the author depicts Winston as a frustrated and isolated individual. Although, this quote portrays an optimistic mood to the reader because it gives the reader hope that life will get better for Winston and that he will be able to obtain the freedom he deserves regardless of an overpowering government. As the excerpt continues, Winston discusses a diary and how "He was writing the diary for O'Brien – to O'Brien: it was like an interminable letter which no one would ever read, but which was addressed to a particular person and took its color from that fact" (Orwell 80-81). The plot within this quote also allows the reader to foreshadow Winston's rebellion against the government because it is made clear that he would feel comfortable showing his diary to O'Brien since he knew that O'Brien was on his side. This also brings forth a touch of irony because Winston states at the beginning of the excerpt that he was afraid of being caught. Although, regardless of that fear, he created a diary that could potentially get him caught but is still willing to show it to another individual based on his instinct that he might also be right. The plot and irony shown within this quote then allows the reader to examine how the fear of the party has caused Winston to rebel against the government. So, by analyzing how foreshadowing is shown through the plot and Winston's characterization, the reader is able to conclude that an individual goes through many physical and emotional changes due to an abusive government and that Orwell is trying to warn the reader about its negative impact.

Word Count: 812

