

Commentary on candidate evidence question 2a and 2b

Candidate 1 – Thelma & Louise

Question 2a: Narrative

The candidate was awarded **8 marks**.

The narrative concept of the equilibrium phase is decoded in detail with reference to the use of sound, mise-en-scène and actors' performances. There are developed references to these features of the film, and comments on how they create semantic codes symbolising the oppressed, trapped nature of the protagonists' lives at the start of the film. Overall, narrative is decoded in detail using one concept, with comments and developed references to media content, and so the script is placed at the upper end of the 7-8 band.

Question 2b: Society and/or Institutions with Narrative

The candidate was awarded **7 marks**.

The society factor of traditional gender roles is decoded in detail and is discussed with reference to the equilibrium phase of the narrative. There is developed reference to the portrayal of Darryl and Thelma as conforming to traditional stereotypes, and there is a brief comment explaining why it is appropriate that these stereotypes are shown in the equilibrium phase of the narrative. Overall, society is decoded in detail using one concept, with developed references to media content and with some comment on how society has affected narrative, and so the script is placed at the lower end of the 7-8 band.

Candidate 2 – Get out

Question 2a: Narrative

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

The narrative concepts of the equilibrium phase, the convention of the villain, and the disruption are explained rather than analysed. While the narrative concepts are not fully decoded, the explanations are accurate and there are several relevant references to the film, and so the script is placed at the upper end of the 3-4 mark band.

Question 2b: Society and/or Institutions with Narrative

The candidate was awarded **6 marks**.

The society factor of racism is decoded in some detail. There are references to America's history of slavery as shown through the mise-en-scène of the cotton Chris uses to escape and through the similarity of the Armitages' house to a plantation house; to the microaggressions black people in America experience as shown through Chris's encounter with the traffic cop and the remarks of Dean Armitage; and to the institutional racism of the police as shown through Rod's dismissal by the black police officers. A link is made between racism and the narrative convention of the villain. Overall, society is decoded in some detail with relevant references to media content and with a link between society and narrative, so the script is placed at the upper end of the 5-6 mark band.