**English 1201 Exam Break Down**

**Demand Essay (Marked out of 20):**

**Content** (marked out of 10 which is converted to a mark out 15)

* Understanding of story itself
* Drawing on specifics to the text
* Answering the question of character development using two literary elements with significant elaboration and discussion (from suggested list or individual choice except for theme because character develops the main idea, the main idea doesn’t go backwards to develop character)

**Organization/language** (marked out of 5)

* Introduction and conclusion were present and full paragraphs
* Transitions between ideas were provided
* Coherence of thought was clear
* Strong thesis statement introducing the question

**Areas of Concern:**

* Introduction
* Thesis is weak/non-existent
* Not including an introduction at all
* Not indicating what the rest of the essay should be about in the introduction
* Not stating the literary elements you are going to discuss
* Not stating the characters and traits you are going to discuss
* Body Paragraphs
* No quoting/specific referencing
* Significant inaccuracies to text (didn't understand text)
* Examples provided but not tied back to character development
* Discussed character development but didn't address any literary elements
* Only one example per body paragraph (minimum 2 required)
* In discussing Ashes' dad's character students ignored his full character development (i.e.

talked about him caring about her in the beginning but completely ignored the fact that he manipulated her the entire time for his own selfish needs)

* Weak topic sentences
* Too much plot, not enough analysis
* Conclusions
* Not included
* Typically one brief sentence
* Not recapping each body paragraph argument
* Not revisiting the thesis
* Including new information in the conclusion turning it into a body paragraph

**Visual (Marked out of 10):**

**Multiple Choice (4 marks)**

2. C 3. B 4. C 5. C

**Constructed Response (6 marks)**

6. 2 marks – Title

1 mark – reference 1

1 mark – explanation of reference 1

1 mark – reference 2

1 mark – explanation of reference 2

* For the constructed response question, selection of the title for the visual was relatively well done. Titles generally spoke to the thematic and/or visual emphasis of the selection.
* Problems with this answer arose in the use of supports for selection. Areas of concern were:
* general commentary not specifically referencing the visual
* commentary which became a personal response rather than specific to the visual elements
* simplistic reference to the obvious without commenting on its usage in the visual

(i.e. use if color green without mentioning why this was appropriate in this context)

**Poetry (Marked out of 20):**

**Multiple Choice:**

7. C

8. C

9. A

10. D

11. B

12. D

13. D

14. B and C accepted

* Many students need to review the types of poems (narrative)
* Many students mixed up the meaning of “plaintive”

**Question 15: Mood (6 points)**

Mark Breakdown: 2 for the identification of appropriate mood; 2 points for each reason to support the chosen mood

Overall, students did well in choosing the mood

* Common answers receiving full marks: sorrow, despair, sadness, hopeful
* Common answers receiving half marks: “there are two moods” wherein one mood is correct and the other incorrect
* Answers receiving 0/2: excited, successful, happy, uplifting

How students lost marks:

* Including only one support rather than two (2/2 support #1, 0/2 support #2)
* Including a quote, but not explaining how the quote ties to the mood (1/2)
* Making a vague reference to the poem without using a quote (1/2)
* Referencing that the husband and son were saved, when they were not (0.5/2 or 1/2)
* Misinterpreting “plaintive” as a synonym for positive or calm
* Describing the poem as having a “happy ending”

**Question 16: Theme (6 points)**

Mark Breakdown: 2 for the identification of appropriate theme; 2 points for each reason to support the chosen theme

Overall, students did well in choosing the theme

* Examples of answers receiving full marks: “never lose hope”, “it’s important to stay positive during difficult time”, “it’s important to shine light on dark times”, “do not take life for granted”
* Examples of answers receiving 1 or 0.5 marks: “ice is dangerous”, “always make backup plans”

How students lost marks:

* Naming a topic instead of a message (e.g., “bravery”, “courage” or “hope”) (0.5/2)
* Including only one support rather than two (2/2 support #1, 0/2 support #2)
* Including a quote, but not explaining how the quote ties to the theme (1/2)
* Making a vague reference to the poem without using a quote (1/2)
* Referencing that the husband and son were saved, when they were not (0.5/2 or 1/2)
* Speculating about details not included in the poem, for example, that they didn’t like working on the island (0.5/2 or 1/2)

**Personal Response (Marked out of 10):**

**Excellent response 8-10**

* Content is relevant, outstanding and clearly answers the prompt. Students discussed their challenge in great detail and provided supporting evidence of how it caused them to become a better person.
* Mechanics are incredibly strong. Students had very few errors with their spelling, punctuation, capitalization and grammar.
* Organization and structure are displayed in an outstanding manner (multi-paragraph and logical order)
* Voice comes across clearly.

**Satisfactory response 4-7**

* Content is only sometimes relevant. Not providing a sufficient amount of evidence on how their conflict caused them to become a better person.
* Several errors with their spelling/punctuation/capitalization/grammar that make readability an issue.
* Organization and structure is lacking (writing only one paragraph and illogical order)
* Not providing a voice (it is a personal response therefore they should write about themselves).

**Mediocre response 0-3**

* Content is not relevant and the prompt is ignored. Did not provide any evidence on how their conflict caused them to become a better person.
* Many errors with their spelling/punctuation/capitalization/grammar that make readability almost impossible.
* There is no organization or structure (writing only one paragraph and there is no order)
* Not providing a voice (it is a personal response therefore they should write about themselves