

Internal assessment -- Sample B

	Marks awarded	Marks available
Criterion A	4	5
Criterion B	4	5
Criterion C	6	10
Criterion D	8	10
Total	22	30

Moderator comments

Criterion A

All formal requirements have been met. The piece needs more sustained argument as opposed to literary commentary to be appropriately philosophical. Ideas are expressed in an organized way and the language is precise.

Criterion B

A very clear attempt to apply skills of philosophical analysis, though the treatment suffers from a lack of focus due to its structure. The piece is dependent on a comparison of two texts rather than an identification of specific issues. There is evidence of a good understanding of the philosophical arguments/ideas that arise, but these are presented as textual commentary rather than philosophical argument.

Criterion C

Good stimulus material rendering a convincing treatment, though issues are described rather than fully analysed or argued. There is a lack of counter-arguments and the piece feels overly descriptive rather than analytical, perhaps because of its structure.

Criterion D

Very good development of ideas prompted by the source material. There is a convincing treatment of philosophical themes and a personal voice is evident throughout the response.

The student offers some clear, interesting and valid philosophical points and insights that arise from a comparison of a non-philosophical source with a philosophical one. What is particularly clear is the student's engagement with the issues raised. The danger is in a tendency to become descriptive rather than analytical, and while there is some analysis here, it comes through a start-to-finish description of the lyric, rather than a selection of specific philosophical issues that arise. For example, the student has not said "the source shows the problem of knowledge and truth, a possible response to which is taken by Critical Realism." Rather, the student describes the conclusions both authors come to on matters regarding truth. The analysis is not being sustained and no arguments are raised, hence the lack of counter-arguments. It offers a very personal response that clearly reflects an enjoyment of reading the cave simile and applying it to the wider world. More contemporary (or personal) examples would have added to the piece. All formal requirements were met, but the bibliography looks very thin.