

90849



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY  
 MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

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SUPERVISOR'S USE ONLY

## Level 1 English, 2014

### 90849 Show understanding of specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), using supporting evidence

9.30 am Wednesday 12 November 2014

Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Show understanding of specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), using supporting evidence.	Show convincing understanding of specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), using supporting evidence.	Show perceptive understanding of specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), using supporting evidence.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

**You should answer ONE of the essay questions in this booklet.**

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

**YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.**

**Excellence**

**TOTAL**

**8**

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Question number:

5

Written text type(s):

Tick (✓) your selection.

Novel

Drama

Poetry/song lyric

Non-fiction

Short story

Digital/online text

Print media

Title(s): Lord of the Flies

Author(s):

William Golding

## PLANNING

Your essay could include:

- an **introduction** that states the focus of your essay
- **key points** related to the question, supported by examples and quotations
- **discussion** of the writer's purpose
- a **conclusion** that focuses on the main idea.

Introduction

Setting — island - isolated  
 — no guidance  
 — no societal standards (rules/laws)

Effect on Characters — polarising viewpoints  
 — civilisation vs. savagery spectrum  
 — Simon possessed a goodness that no other characters did

Understanding of Characters — conditioned by society to be civilised  
 — it is easy for most people to fall into savagery without guidance  
 — savagery lies inside all people

Conclusion

Question:

"Describe at least one important setting in the text. Explain how the setting helped you to understand one or more characters in the text."

You should aim to write a concise essay of no more than 3 pages in length. The quality of your writing is more important than the length of your essay.

Support the points you make with **specific details** from the text(s).

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Begin your **written text(s)** essay here:

In the William Golding novel *Lord of the Flies*, the setting of the isolated island is of vital importance in understanding the characters and their actions. Without the restrictions of society in place, the boys begin to devolve into savagery and this is a clear indication of what many believe to be the underlying drive in all of humanity.

When the boys' plane first crashes and they are coming to terms with the situation, they are blissfully unaware of the fact they are on an isolated island in the middle of the ocean. Because of this, their initial ~~attempts~~<sup>actions</sup> are made in the belief that they still hold a connection to civilisation and the society they lived in. However, as the reality of the situation gradually gains some clarity, a clear division forms between Ralph and Piggy, who are still attempting to maintain a hold on civilisation and Jack, who immediately falls into a tribal mindset. As the book progresses, and society seems to grow further out of reach for the boys, the balance of power shifts drastically and Jack holds power over the majority of the boys. This in itself displays the ease ~~in~~<sup>with</sup> which people can drop civilisation for savagery under a lack of repercussions ~~or~~ or

guidance.

As the balance of power shifts on the island, the spectrum of civilisation and savagery on which the boys sit becomes more clear. Ralph and Jack are very much at opposite ends of the spectrum, with each trying to hold on to an entirely different set of values. Despite this, Ralph still lapses in and out of savagery throughout the book, finding this shift ~~unavoidable~~ unavoidable as the other boys do the same. Another boy, Simon, however, displays an entirely different approach to the situation, ~~than the others~~. He possesses ~~an~~ a spiritual goodness that none of the others display, and because of this he does not slip into savagery ~~as easily~~ as the others do, despite the isolation he feels on the island.

Simon is the only person to discover that the "beast" the others feel is haunting them is really themselves. Unfortunately for him, his contrasting view ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> the situation and personal beliefs mean he is killed at the hands of the other boys, including Ralph. This shows that despite his best efforts, Ralph is very different from Simon because he doesn't have the same inherent goodness and as a result finds himself <sup>becoming</sup> ~~as~~ one of the savages. He has instead been conditioned by society to think in a certain way and act in a certain way and the separation the island provides from society leaves him unsure of his true beliefs.

and perspective on life. For most people, this is also likely true, and for many of the boys on the island they had very little grasp on society and found ~~savagery to come as second nature~~ that savagery came as second nature to them. in the <sup>disconnected</sup> environment of the island.

Overall, the setting of the island is used to display the true nature of humanity in the absence of guidance. The boys are left to fend for themselves and, while perhaps partly due to age, the events that unfold on the island and the change in characters represent what Golding believes to be humanity at its most primal core, with civilization merely masking the savagery that lives within all of us. Simon, however, represents the ~~sp~~ goodness that does live within <sup>us</sup> humanity, and ~~it~~ is perhaps a small sign of hope that ~~humanity is not purely savage.~~ There is some good within humanity as a whole.

E8

QS	08 Excellence	<p>The candidate has concisely addressed both parts of the question.</p> <p>There is perceptive and insightful discussion of the writer's purpose throughout the essay.</p> <p>The setting is discussed with its relevance throughout the novel.</p> <p>The candidate shows a detailed knowledge of the text and includes a selection of details that develop the central argument and are relevant to the question.</p> <p>The essay is organised and the structure and expression show flair/originality in examination conditions.</p>
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