

Principal Examiner's Comments (Section A Only)
B322 June 2010 (Bourne Identity)

Question 1

Explain two ways the characters and/or events in the extract fit the action adventure genre.

This answer covers a number of points rather than just two, but in doing so meets the level four descriptors – it explains two features, shows thorough understanding, uses evidence and some terminology (this latter is the weakest part of the answer).

8/10

Question 2

Explain how each of the following is used to create effects that fit the action adventure genre:

- **soundtrack**
- **camerawork**
- **editing**
- **mise-en-scène.**

All four bullet points covered in detail with fluent use of terminology and thorough understanding of connotative effect. Level four.

20/20

Question 3

**Discuss the ways in which people are represented in the extract.
Make reference to stereotypes.**

A rather implicit discussion of gender stereotyping means that understanding of representation issues is only sound, rather than thorough. This answer seems to veer between discussion of characterisation and representation, but does enough to fit in level three.

14/20

Section A only 42/50

B322 June 2010 42/50 Marks (Section A only)

1) The storyline makes sense in the world that has been created because it is an adventure and he is on a quest to find himself. The story has led him to an exotic, foreign location which is a convention found in many action adventure films. The female role in the film also fits as she is very beautiful and has also become very close to him helping him along in his quest to find himself. She is dressed in black showing that she is suspicious and that there is another side to her that we may not have come across. The storyline is also very tense because we are on the side of the hero because we are unsure as well.

(8 marks)

2) The mise en scene is very bare and empty. This is a representation of Bourne's mind. It also gives us no more information that we do not need and also means that we are hunting for clues gripping the audience. The female role is also as a companion and plays a major role in his life which is a convention found in many action/adventure films. This also makes the male protagonist empathisable easy to relate to because it shows he has feelings. Bourne also has a lot of money and this makes him seem rich and well off as lower class people are usually seen as the animals. The location is exotic and in Paris. It is very evident by the people on the phone. As well as being a convention it also makes the storyline believable and therefore interesting for the audience.

The tapping noises create a tense atmosphere as they are non-diegetic making the audience want to know where it come from. The scene starts off quiet and empty making the audience feel on the same level as the characters. As the scene progresses we begin to gradually understand at the same pace as Bourne. This is shown by the pace of the music speeding up. The bells are of a high pitch, this creates a panicky atmosphere and this is a convention because viewers will be anticipating the forthcoming events. When the low chiming noise comes into the scene along with a faster paced editing, it creates a metaphorical explosion of events because Bourne has a sudden revelation of new information to find out his past. The scene has also been darkened showing the low mood usually found in the disequilibrium shown in an action/adventure film.

Throughout the clip it cuts to Marie in the Bathroom briefly creating a possible link between herself and the phone conversation in the other room. These brief encounters with Marie get shorter and quicker representing a pulse beating faster which makes the clip gripping. At each of the key moments of the clip the camera switches to Point of View shots so we can see the world from his perspective. He is the clear hero which are found in Action movies usually. Over the shoulder shots make the audience feel part of the action like they are a ghost and an onlooker who is not part of the action but still there. It makes the clip inclusive for the audience, this makes the audience enjoy the clip more. Point of View shots also help the audience see more detail in the clip, understanding it and therefore make it a believable alternative to reality. The camera pans the flat giving us a decent understanding of the location which also makes the storyline believable.

(20 marks)

3) The French people are shown as insignificant even though it is their country when Bourne phones the hotel, they are given no identity just shown as information bearers. The characters present in this clip all have another side which is not shown. They are all dressed in Black and are not given much depth and you do not know a lot about their past. Male and females are shown to always become 'close' in desperate situations. Females are shown as the companion or sidekick as she is helping him to find his past and not

doing it for him. Bourne is the male here as he is muscley in size and in perfect condition, even though he lost his memory, he is over coming that and finding the truth. People are all shown as complex characters often with othersides that they are not always willing to show. Each of the characters (Marie and Jason) seem to be slowly unravelling their otherside. Marie is suspicious and although presented as a sidekick she seems to have another side and towards the end of the clip she seems to have a split personality which Jason finds out. Therefore Bourne is shown as cleverer and brainier than her and that the female race is no match for males as they can see through their act.

(14 marks)