

Candidate A
Film – Attack the Block

3. (a) Identify **one** example of lighting used in your film. [1]

Low key lighting at night.

- (b) Briefly outline what this example of lighting typically suggests. [4]

Low key lighting typically suggests a sense of doom or suspense. It is commonly associated with genres such as thriller or horror. It tells the audience to be wary or scared.

- (c) Briefly explore how your example of lighting is used in **one** sequence. [5]

Low key lighting is used in the opening of ATB to immediately put the audience on edge and conform to the expectations of the horror/sci-fi genre. The film is set at night which also makes a statement about the youths within the film that are initially stereotyped and portrayed as figures to fear before the real monsters arrive.

- (d) Explore how cinematography and lighting help to create the film's 'look'. Refer to at least **one** sequence in your answer.

In your answer, you should refer to:

- camera shots and movement
- framing including lighting
- relevant aspects of mise-en-scène.

[15]

One of the ways the opening sequence establishes the film style in ATB is through camera shots. We see a close up of Sam's face when she realises that she is about to get mugged. The director represents her as the damsel in distress, as she is in trouble and there is no escape from the gang. The use of the close up is to tell the audience how Sam is feeling and how she reacts to the gang. Before this, Sam was represented as innocent and a happy character, but everything changes when she meets the gang. She is now represented as alone and a scared character. As an audience, we understand that she is in trouble, so we feel sympathy towards her. Gang crime is used throughout the film, but at this point there is a lot of verisimilitude – we can relate this crime in our society today. The use of the camera shot establishes the film style by creating a dangerous feel to the film. The close ups represent the emotions that each individual is feeling. The audience understands that the film will explore a roller coaster of emotions and this is made clear through close up camera shots.

Another way the opening sequence establishes the film style in ATB is through colour. We see vibrant, saturated colours Sam wears in the market. The director represents Sam as the protagonist, who is a caring and vulnerable character. The colours – green and purple – are balanced in which they don't clash. This tells us that she prefers comfortable, smart clothing to wearing the bling like the other girls who are introduced later on in the film. The audience understands clearly that she is the protagonist, but she isn't aware of what's to come as she walks home. We feel on edge for Sam, as she is walking closer to where she will be mugged, and we almost want to call out to her to stop her. The use of the colour establishes the film style as clear distinctions between the characters are drawn. Sam is surrounded by saturated colours and natural hues, to show her protagonist side compared to the gang's

side which is surrounded by desaturated colours and dark hues to show their 'darkness' of their lives. We understand that the film will include discordance and transitional colours, which is made clear through the early stages of the film.

As well as this, the opening sequence establishing the film style in ATB through camera tilts. The camera tilts up to show what is going on in the sky. The director shows this to tell the audience what will happen next. This creates suspense and tension as it is showing us the main story of the film. The audience understands clearly that there will be an alien invasion, through the meteor like stars that are starting to come to Earth. This establishes the film as the audience are grabbed in and you feel like you want to watch it the next part to see what happens.

Candidate B
Film – Attack the Block

3. (a) Identify **one** example of lighting used in your film. [1]

Low key.

- (b) Briefly outline what this example of lighting typically suggests. [4]

Darkness and horror with shadows.

- (c) Briefly explore how your example of lighting is used in **one** sequence. [5]

The opening of ATB is set at night which means the lighting is low key. This tells the audience to get ready because something bad is about to happen, and it does in ATB as the monster tries to kill everything in its' path.

- (d) Explore how cinematography and lighting help to create the film's 'look'. Refer to at least **one** sequence in your answer.

In your answer, you should refer to:

- camera shots and movement
- framing including lighting
- relevant aspects of mise-en-scène.

[15]

In the opening sequence it uses a camera shot type in Attack the Block. Mozes is shown in a close up when he is mugging the women. They do this to show that Mozes is trying to look angry and dangerous to intimidate Sam who is the woman. In this part of the scene Sam is represented as the protagonist and Mozes is the antagonist because Sam is vulnerable and shown as the victim from her facial expressions and how she is outnumbered and Mozes is angry and showing that he's not messing about. As the audience we can see she is the protagonist and wants to just get away and when it shows the close up of her she looks extremely scared and in shock. The use of emotions shows that we can clearly see the difference in the two characters and how they are much different people.

In ATB they use low key lighting a lot they do this so it adds a dim mood. They also use this with lots of desaturated colours. When Sam is walking home she sees a gang and instantly we know that it won't mix well just from the colours because Sam has very highly saturated colours but the gang have very low saturated colours. The director does this too show that the gang are the antagonists as they are all wearing black and don't want to be seen but showing Sam as the protagonist who is wearing more saturated colours. We can see that Sam is a happy, cheerful person but the gang are angry and quite mean with have hints of red which could symbol danger or blood. The colours show that the characters have different personalities and would most likely never be friends.

The camera angle movement used in ATB is used when the Alien pod shoots down on the car. You can see that it makes the characters look small and weak as it is higher than them all and they all look at it in fright. The director does this to show that the gang aren't the meanest and most dangerous as something has just challenged them. We can see that the gang look scared that it might blow them up. They use the high angle shot showing that the gang are lower to them as the pod crashes showing something could beat them and now the gang might have to change personalities and become the protagonists and fight the aliens to protect their world.

