**Exemplar response Component 1 Section A (Compare IBS and E.T)**

Compare how the same **theme** is explored in each of your comparative study films (E.T and Invasion of the Body Snatchers)

In your answer, you should consider:

* How the characters and narratives illustrate the theme you have identified.
* Similarities & differences between the way the theme you have identified is explored in each of your films.

(20 marks)

*The theme of* ***alienation*** *is explored in* ***both*** *IBS and E.T. IBS’ context influences this theme as it was made at a time where there was a significant* ***fear*** *of* ***difference*** *and of those considered ‘****alien’****. America had recently come out of a period of alarm surrounding* ***Communism****, encouraged by* ***McCarthyism****. This meant that for many people the fear of* ***change*** *and the idea that society could be corrupted was very real. In IBS the characters surrounding* ***Miles*** *and* ***Becky*** *exemplify this. At first the people of Santa Mira are fearful of the pods who could be seen as a* ***symbol*** *of* ***communist******ideology****. Slowly, they* ***conform*** *and become pod people, whilst Miles and Becky fight to keep their* ***freedom*** *and* ***identity*** *despite the majority turning against them. When Becky finally turns, the theme of* ***alienation*** *is apparent as Miles is now left* ***alone*** *and* ***isolated*** *because he maintained his principles and fought for what he believed in. Alternative readings of IBS suggest that is in fact an exploration of McCarthyism and the dangers his witch-hunt posed. Rather than being a warning about communism, the theme is explored through the idea of identity; the* ***subtext*** *being that standing up for yourself and refusing to conform can lead to* ***alienation****, as is the case with Miles.*

*Similarly, in E.T the theme of alienation is explored through a character determined to be himself and do what he thinks is right. However, unlike Miles, Elliot is represented right from the start of the movie as a somewhat isolated. His failure to fit in with his brother’s friends highlight his insecurity and feelings of isolation. By meeting and later helping E.T (another alienated character) Elliott is able to express himself and find his identity, just like Miles does in IBS. Unlike the aliens in IBS, E.T is a benevolent and peaceful alien. He is alienated because he has come to earth and remains here accidentally. In contrast, the pods of IBS wish to dominate and eventually wipe out earth’s inhabitants. Both films convey the theme of alienation but with the narratives taking very different paths. E.T may symbolise the pain and alienation that childhood can bring; it is the children in the film who teach the adults about loyalty and how to treat everyone kindly despite appearances. Whereas in IBS the pods lead to division and the choosing of sides – the way they alienate individuals and begin their plan to overthrow humanity.*

*Both films explore how feelings of alienation can affect individuals. For some, it’s an opportunity to stand up for what’s right, whilst for others it may highlight their weaknesses. Both Miles and E.T are prepared to be alienated rather than sacrifice their morality.*