**Exemplar exam response Component 1 Section A (E.T)**

1. **Identify one example of cinematography used in your chosen film. (1)**

*An example of cinematography in E.T is low key lighting around the spaceship.*

1. **Briefly explain what this example of cinematography typically suggests. (4)**

*Low key lighting typically suggests a sense of unease or uncertainty. It is often used to portray an atmosphere of foreboding, and that something sinister or unpleasant is about to happen. It can also be used to create a ‘dark’ tone surrounding a character, suggesting they are manipulative or untrustworthy.*

1. **Explore how this example of cinematography is used in one sequence from your chosen film. (10)**

*At the start of E.T low key lighting is used to create a foreboding and uneasy atmosphere. The setting is established and we can see that it is a dark forest. Immediately a sense of danger is created through the poor visibility and isolation. As the camera pans down we see the silhouette of trees in a forest. Again the low key lighting creates a feeling of remoteness and anxiety.*

*A wide shot of the spaceship gives us context and we can tell the genre of the film is sci fi. The low key lighting surrounds the space ship and at first the audience is unsure about the intentions of the alien visitors who have arrived on earth. However, the high key blue lights of the spaceship are juxtaposed against the low key light perhaps suggesting the aliens are not malevolent. The use of a blue hue, rather than the conventional green often used in sci fi movies also suggests this. Inside the spaceship the low key lighting dominates as we see the plant life growing. There is still an ambiguous tone as the low key lighting doesn’t allow the audience to fully view the interior of the spaceship leaving us wondering whether dangers are lurking.*

*Outside the spaceship we see out first glimpse of the aliens. Again, they are surrounded in low key light which at first sight may suggest they are dangerous and sinister. However, their red glowing hearts are juxtaposed against the darkness and could symbolise the fact that they are capable of feeling emotion. The red hue could connote their passion and ability to love rather than suggesting that they are dangerous. As the scene concludes the humans come looking for the aliens. The light from their torches breaks up the low key lighting. It is dazzling and disruptive. At this point the audience senses that the aliens are not to be feared; they are simply sheltering in the darkness, and it is in fact the humans who bring ‘darkness’ to the narrative.*