**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 genre conventions are 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 which points to audience towards the sci fi genre. 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. We as the audience know something is about to happen.*

*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. This representation of ‘otherness’ challenges the typical sci fi conventions of an alien, who is usually going to cause us harm. The use of a blue hue, rather than the conventional green often used in sci fi films 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 and fog doesn’t allow the audience to fully view the interior of the spaceship leaving us wondering whether dangers are lurking, again supporting usual sci fi conventions.*

*Outside the spaceship we see out first glimpse of the aliens, the use of alien is a sci fi convention. 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 audience are being asked to question their usual sci fi beliefs. 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.*

**Exemplar exam response Component 1 Section A (IOTBS)**

1. Identify **one** example of film language used in your chosen film.

(Remember to give context e.g. ‘example’ when….)

*A close up of Becky’s face when she becomes a pod person.*

1. Briefly explain what this example of film language **typically** suggests.

*A close up typically suggests a character’s emotions or state of mind are important. The audience needs to be aware of the how the character is feeling. A close up can also suggest a prop’s importance or significance as by focusing the audience’s attention on it the director is suggesting it is vital that we see it to understand its importance in the narrative.*

1. **Explore how genre conventions are used in one sequence from your chosen film**. (10)

*In the sequence where Miles discovers the pods (the greenhouse scene), genre conventions are used to show that the humans are in grave danger from the alien ‘pod people’. Up until now the main characters have been unware of the creatures lurking in their homes and towns. This sequence dramatically exposes the peril that they are all now in.*

*At the start of the sequence a* ***long shot*** *is seen with the pods in the* ***foreground*** *suggesting their importance and impending dominance. The visibility of the pods reminds us of the sci fi genre. In the* ***background****, Becky and Miles appear small and vulnerable. The* ***low key lighting*** *creates a sinister and brooding atmosphere further highlighting the hybrid genre of the film which is a sci fi/horror with visual traits from film noir. The* ***slatted light*** *shafts create a* ***film noir*** *tone and the characters appear trapped and confined within the greenhouse. The claustrophobic atmosphere is further established through a* ***Dutch tilt*** *(another film noir convention)**as Miles enters the greenhouse. This suggests that something is wrong and an uneasy tone is created, again linking to the horror genre. The* ***diegetic*** *music is fairly soft and quiet at this point. Then a rapid* ***jump cut*** *to an* ***extreme close up*** *of the pod slowly opening and frothing is combined with an abrupt* ***single major note,*** *which highlights the grotesque nature of the pod people, linking to both horror and sci fi conventions. This emphasises the* ***equilibrium*** *has now been disrupted and a lingering* ***close up*** *of the pod reveals its inhuman, toxic appearance. The* ***diegetic*** *gurgling and popping noises continue as Miles is seen in the background unware of the escalating danger. The horror conventions are very present now. The* ***non diegetic*** *crescendo alongside the* ***close up*** *of the pod reinforces its danger and tells the audience that we are reaching the peak of tension in this horror scene. Finally, Miles realises what is happening and a series of* ***shot reverse shot close******ups*** *of his shocked* ***facial expression*** *and the pod revealing its alien contents conveys his horror at the situation. The representation of the alien as a danger to humans is typical of the sci fi genre.*

*Overall the genre convention (both horror and sci fi) is used to* ***juxtapose*** *the innocent humans against the malevolent pods and to show that these seemingly harmless plants are now a major threat to humanity’s existence.*