May 2015 IB Paper 2 Exam Question:

We often talk of characters arriving at some moment of epiphany, with reference to at least two works of fiction you have studied, compare the means by which our attention is drawn to these moments and their impact within the works.

8. How often are we able to see the world for what it is?

Oryx and Crake by Margaret Atwood and 1984 by George Orwell are both novels that focus on dystopian societies. In each novel, the main character comes to a realization about the world they live in. Before the reader can identify this epiphany, the novel sets up events that lead up to it. It is important for the main characters to have an epiphany because it shows dystopian societies can not isolate human emotions or someone’s ability to think. 1984 and Oryx and Crake use imagery, structure and symbolism to demonstrate how the characters arrived at an epiphany and how the readers’ attention was drawn to these moments and their impact within the works.

Imagery plays a huge role in identifying key events within both novels. In 1984, imagery is used to express to the reader how unsafe Winston was. The Party beat him, starved him and betrayed him by killing his family and not admitting to it. Atwood describes all of Winston’s bruises and the pain he felt in great detail. This is to show how much Winston is to understanding the truth about the Party. The reader knows from previous events how shady the Party is, but Winston trusted one of their members, O’Brien, which led to his death. Jimmy, a character from Oryx and Crake, is alone, he has Crake but he still feels alone. Atwood uses imagery to describe Jimmy’s epiphany about the scientific innovations and inventions being created. Atwood details the day
Jimmy's mother left because of how depressed and upset she was with the scientific corporation she worked for and his father. Later in the novel, Atwood uses this information to express the savagery of Jimmy's mother's death. The policemen shot her in the head in front of Jimmy (he watched from a screen) just to see how he would react. This moment proved to Jimmy and the reader that his mom knew too much information behind the scientific innovations. Imagery in both novels leads the reader closer to the epiphany in which the character's will have.

Readers are able to understand the events that occur in a novel when there is some type of structure. *1984* and *Oryx and Crake* utilize two different structures to ensure the novel will have an impact on the readers. *Oryx and Crake* has a thematic structure to emphasize and/or events within the novel. Since the story is being told by Snowman (Jimmy's post-apocalyptic), Atwood uses flashbacks to show the transition in Jimmy's life from himself to Snowman. A flashback that is very critical to Jimmy's perspective on the scientifically made world that he lives in is when Crake created the Physiopuss pill. Snowman remembered why Crake gave him the antedote because he wanted him to rebirth humanity. The day everyone died is the day Jimmy realized companies like 'Anoo Yoo' and 'Helth Wyte' were there to destroy humanity to make more money for themselves. This has a great impact on Atwood's novel because even though it is fiction, it is a reflection on what America will be like if science outgrows the arts.

*1984* has a more chronological structure; however, there are some flashbacks to emphasize key events throughout the novel. Orwell chooses a chronological structure to ensure the reader follows the plot. He also uses a chronological structure to make the reader wait for Winston's epiphany. For example, Winston is against 'The Party' but he has never met Big Brother (Party leader) or members who are against 'The Party' as well. Then, suddenly Winston gets a
meeting with O'Brien, a party member, who seems to shut off all surveillance materials to allow Winston the chance to admit his hate for 'the Party.' But, four chapters later, O'Brien plays a recording from that day, while Winston is trying to stay conscience and hold on to his dear life. At this point, Winston realizes that there is no getting away from 'the Party'; he realizes that he is stuck in the position he put himself in. The events before this moment allow the reader to understand Winston's position and what role society plays in the novel. The impact by which a reader's attention is drawn to these moments is huge because the reader is able to compare Orwell's dystopia to their own lives.

Moments throughout 1984 and Oryx and Crake are heavily recognizable due to symbols within the works. In both novels, security/surveillance is used as a symbol to create reality. In Orwell's 1984, society is monitored by telescreens and microphones and people as well to show how unescapable Oceania is. A great moment to note is when Winston and Julia were caught by the thought police. They were discussing that they were going to die, then an unknown voice told them they were going to die. Once they moved the painting in the room, Winston and Julia discovered a telescreen; they were being watched and listened to all the time. This moment led to Winston's epiphany that no matter where you go, you will never be safe. At this point in the novel, Winston lost hope and stared into the eyes of a thought-police. Also, this moment had a great impact within the work because it shows in that dystopian society freedom will never be entertained.

Meanwhile in Oryx and Crake, the corpsmen are the surveillance. The corpsmen murder, people, interrogate people and ensure that science is protected. Each year or any time Jimmy received an anonymous letter from his mother, he was
questioned and watched. Just like in 1984, surveillance was everywhere, even when you thought you were safe. When he was younger, Jimmy had an epiphany that his mom had a reason to be depressed. Jimmy realized that Helvetica and other corporations like it were selling dreams to those who could not afford it. The moment which led to this realization is when Jimmy’s mom left. The day she left, she took Killer, Jimmy’s pet yakinko, and she wrote him a note. He could not figure out why his mom would just leave until the corpsemen arrived to interrogate him. The events approaching this moment are important because they bring the reader closer to why the destruction of society occured. A way to identify that any important event is going to occur is when the corpsemen arrive. When they arrive, the reader knows that someone has died, will die or is in trouble.

1984 and Oryx and Crake use imagery, structure and symbolism to draw the reader’s attention to the moments where characters arrive at an epiphany and their impacts within the works. Orwell and Atwood focused on fictionalized dystopian societies to reflect on the consequences of the events. Orwell wrote 1984 in 1948, which was 40 years before (almost). I believe Orwell wanted the world to have an epiphany because he reflected on true events from his time period such as war, police governments, and destruction of opposition. These themes are very prevalent in 1984, to show readers what the world would be like if ran by corrupt officials. Then, there is Oryx and Crake, which to me, is a criticism on today’s society. Atwood wants readers to compare and contrast the book to the lives we live today. Atwood goes into detail on the impact science will have and the consequences of science inventions if corporate America is set to run the world. Oryx and Crake is meant to express the negative and indirect influence money has on the healthcare industry, science and
B Natural resources. In my opinion, 
Onyx and Crake and 1984 were written to reflect on society's bad decision-making and the impact of those decisions. Both novels should allow the reader to have an epiphany on the society in which they live, which is why characters in Onyx and Crake and 1984 have epiphanies that affect the work.
Candidate Marks Report

Series: M15 2015

This candidate's script has been assessed using On-Screen Marking. The marks are therefore not shown on the script itself, but are summarised in the table below.

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In the table below 'Total Mark' records the mark scored by this candidate. 'Max Mark' records the Maximum Mark available for the question.

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## HL External Assessment Criteria - Paper 2: Essay

### Criterion A: Knowledge and understanding
- **0 Marks**: The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
- **1 Mark**: There is some knowledge but virtually no understanding of the part 3 works in relation to the question answered.
- **2 Marks**: There is mostly adequate knowledge and some superficial understanding of the part 3 works in relation to the question answered.
- **3 Marks**: There is adequate knowledge and understanding of the part 3 works in relation to the question answered.
- **4 Marks**: There is good knowledge and understanding of the part 3 works in relation to the question answered.
- **5 Marks**: There is perceptive knowledge and understanding of the part 3 works in relation to the question answered.

### Criterion B: Response to the question
- **0 Marks**: The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
- **1 Mark**: The student shows little awareness of the main implications of the question, and ideas are mainly irrelevant and/or insignificant. There is little meaningful comparison of the works used in relation to the question.
- **2 Marks**: The student responds to some of the main implications of the question with some relevant ideas. There is a superficial attempt to compare the works used in relation to the question.
- **3 Marks**: The student responds to most of the main implications of the question with consistently relevant ideas. There is adequate comparison of the works used in relation to the question.
- **4 Marks**: The student responds to all the implications, as well as some subtleties of the question, with relevant and carefully explored ideas. The comparison includes an effective evaluation of the works in relation to the question.
- **5 Marks**: The student responds to all the implications, as well as the subtleties of the question, with convincing and thoughtful ideas. The comparison includes an effective evaluation of the works in relation to the question.

### Criterion C: Appreciation of the literary conventions of the genre
- **0 Marks**: The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
- **1 Mark**: Some literary conventions are identified but there is limited development relevant to the question and/or the works used.
- **2 Marks**: Examples of literary conventions are sometimes correctly identified and developed, with some relevance to the question and the works used.
- **3 Marks**: Examples of literary conventions are satisfactorily identified and developed, with relevance to the question and the works used.
- **4 Marks**: Examples of literary conventions are clearly identified and effectively developed, with relevance to the question and the works used.
- **5 Marks**: Examples of literary conventions are perceptively identified and persuasively developed, with clear relevance to the question and the works used.

### Criterion D: Organization and development
- **0 Marks**: The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
- **1 Mark**: Ideas have little organization; there may be a superficial structure, but coherence and/or development are lacking.
- **2 Marks**: Ideas have some organization, with a recognizable structure, but coherence and development are often lacking.
- **3 Marks**: Ideas are adequately organized, with a suitable structure and attention paid to coherence and development.
- **4 Marks**: Ideas are effectively organized, with a very good structure, coherence and development.
- **5 Marks**: Ideas are persuasively organized, with excellent structure, coherence and development.

### Criterion E: Language
- **0 Marks**: The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
- **1 Mark**: Language is rarely clear and appropriate; there are many errors in grammar, vocabulary and sentence construction, and little sense of register and style.
- **2 Marks**: Language is sometimes clear and carefully chosen; grammar, vocabulary and sentence construction are fairly accurate, although errors and inconsistencies are apparent; the register and style are to some extent appropriate to the task.
- **3 Marks**: Language is clear and carefully chosen, with an adequate degree of accuracy in grammar, vocabulary and sentence construction; register and style are moderately appropriate to the task.
- **4 Marks**: Language is clear and carefully chosen, with a good degree of accuracy in grammar, vocabulary and sentence construction; register and style are consistently appropriate to the task.
- **5 Marks**: Language is very clear, effective, carefully chosen and precise, with a high degree of accuracy in grammar, vocabulary and sentence construction; register and style are effective and appropriate to the task.