

## 2010 Catholic Trial

In your answers you will be assessed on how well you:

- demonstrate understanding of how particular ways of thinking have shaped and are reflected in texts
- sustain an extended composition appropriate to the question, demonstrating control in the use of language

### Question 7 (25 marks)

A collection of essays entitled Living after the Bomb is planned for publication. Submit an essay that argues that particular texts illuminate aspects of this title in a thought provoking way. In your argument refer closely to TWO of your prescribed texts and other texts of your own choosing.

#### Intro

Living after the bomb implies ways of thinking after the bomb

The essay is an argument for the relevance of the chosen texts to illuminating aspects of thinking and living after the bomb because they are thought provoking

Thought provoking implies that they “emerge from, respond to, critique, and shape our understanding of ways of thinking”; that enable the audience to engage with what it means to be living after the bomb, how to go about living after the bomb, why we live after the bomb

Add more to intro as arguments about the texts develop further.

#### Body -

Hiroshima is a thought provoking text that draws the audience into asking questions about humanity in a post bomb world: What does it mean to be human. How are we to live? What do we believe in now? Hersey's use of New Journalism, a fictional approach to representing history, allows him to employ fictional elements because, as Hersey writes in his essay, 'The Novel of Contemporary History' (1949), "imaginative literature comes closer than any to being able to give an impression of the truth ... this kind of novel should make anyone who reads it better able to meet life in his generation whenever that generation may be. This is the highest aim of any piece of fiction." Through his choice of form, which enables the presentation of the impact of the bomb on individual people in a subjective and sympathetic way for his American audience, Hersey is able to contribute more effectively to the rethinking about what it means to be human required

+ preview come / Rm.  
+ present your overall vision of the period.

**Comment [MJ1]:** Hersey – experimentation with form to focus thinking about what it means to be human, including the role of scientific and religious thinking.

**Comment [MJ2]:** From the rubric: intensified questioning of humanity and human beliefs

**Comment [MJ3]:** From the rubric – experimentation with form

Thought provoking.

**Comment [MJ4]:** Purpose and audience

after the bomb. For example, one of his character/subjects, Mr Tanimoto, an American educated religious minister, must “consciously [repeat] himself to himself” that the men and women that he helps in the immediate aftermath, whose “skin slipped off in huge, glovelike pieces” **are human**. The graphic visual imagery of inhumane destruction, contrasts with Mr Tanimoto’s compassion: “These are **human beings**.” The focalisation from Mr Tanimoto’s point of view, made possible by the emotional truth of ‘the novel of contemporary history’ enables the American reader in 1946 to imagine the best of humanity in these most inhumane circumstances and therefore be “**better able to meet life in his generation**” and consider more compassionately questions of what it means to be human.

**Comment [MJ5]:** Deliberate choice of religious minister to segue into religion and what it means to be human in next paragraph

**Comment [MJ6]:** Close textual analysis that is relevant to the argument

**Comment [MJ7]:** Note that the language technique is linked carefully to the overall argument about Hersey’s experimentation with form; both the micro and macro linguistic choices enable thinking about what it means to be human.

**Comment [MJ8]:** NB ABSENCE OF KEY TERM THOUGHT PROVOKING! CAN YOU FIX THIS?

Hersey context of scientific thinking – link to religious thinking post bomb

human belief about the power of science (quote from Truman?)

quote from scientists who quote religion see Ham readings

humanity of the priests (their strengths and weaknesses)

human belief about religion: a fall but also comfort; two religious

characters and then a third – religion is still important but Hersey is not comforting to his readers in his presentation of religion and the religious in immediate aftermath of bomb, e.g. Mr Tanimoto comforts Mr Tanaka, but his deathlessness of belief is clearly on display or Miss Sasaki’s conversion is not convincing or Father K “went on to explain all the reasons for everything” contrast with Father Siemes report to the Vatican: “When will our moralists give us a clear answer to this question?” of the legitimacy of total war.

– Preference for the incredible ability of humans to survive – e.g. Miss Sasaki’s

religious life is incredibly life affirming (a complete rejection of scientific thinking on Hersey’s part?)

*scientist's use of relig imagery to divert attention*

*dominant appearance*

*fallible insurance*

*depthless*