

Essay question: The development of some literary characters depends greatly on the influence of another character. How does this statement apply to two works on your OIB Syllabus?

In life, people's actions and self are influenced by their surroundings people that have opinions on their life and their life environment. This importance of influence is often seen in literature, where the author shows how the protagonists are influenced by the surrounding characters. ~~The genre studies this influence in the two books,~~  
The Handmaid's Tale written by Margaret Atwood and The Picture of Dorian Gray from Oscar Wilde. In both works, the author uses the representation of the Id, the ego and the superego, represented by characters or groups of characters to show how the protagonists choose between good or bad influence before he act.

To begin with, in The Handmaid's Tale, Atwood uses the influence of the Aunts and the family of Offred to show how these two influences impact in her actions and thoughts.

First of all, the reader can observe a relation of Id, ego and superego, between the groups of characters and Offred. The Aunts represent the Id, because they have a bad influence and try to manipulate the handmaids and especially Offred. On the contrary, the family and loved one of Offreds, even if they are just memories, influence her in a good way. And Offred is the

stay in present tense

careful of grammar!  
also announcing what you are  
"going" to do is a French-ism

offred's family

parallels drawn to



i like this analysis!

ego that balances between the influence of the Id and Superego to make her life the more stable and easier possible. To go further she is this different influence to survive in a society where everything is forbidden, but without losing a part of herself. So secondly, the influence of the Aunts forced Offred to be someone she is not and accept treatments that she doesn't deserve. They are employed by Gilead Society to educate the handmaid's, so that means that they are the ones that brainwash them to make them believe in the Gilead ideal. An example of this is when Aunt Lydia tells the handmaid's that "you're blessed", this shows that she is trying to make them believe that their action is a good for the community. In this quote, the use of the diction of religion with the word "blessed", shows that Atwood covers up the violence of women under eye protection, in this society. It shows that the aunts are a bad influence because they try to make handmaid's forget their own wealth for the sake of community. What's more, To add more, The Aunts are a bad example for Offred because they are a symbol of violence in the books. The author uses the Aunts' violence to show that when a person is educated by violence value, they after don't see the bad in it and are unable to distinguish between good and bad, because it has been normalized. This shows that the characters of aunts are in the society to brainwash handmaid's and make them believe in the fact that the Society's good are more important of their own health and security. Finally, in Offred's life the only influence that make her happy and feel good is the one, from the memories of the people she loved. Atwood make this influence possible through the flashback of her past life. The only moment she had for herself, she pass it in her past life, that help her to don't lose herself in this society and make her survived possible. An example that shows that this influence has positive effects on her is when she

avoid words like "good" and "bad"

I think you could begin a new paragraph here?



is in her room all alone and search a memory where she can hide for a moment and then said "Somewhere good". This quote shows that the moment she have for herself and she decide to have it in sweet memories have a good affect on her life. All of this, show that the influence, even if she is good or bad, help the construction of the character or his evolution through the story.

make a clear indentation for a new paragraph

On the other hand, in The Picture of Dorian Gray, the author uses the influence of Lord Henry and of Basil to show how he is influenced by the people that is around him.

First of all, as in the Handmaid's Tale, there is this relation of ego, superego and id, the only difference is that the id and the super ego aren't represented by groups of characters but just by simple characters. The id is represented by Lord Henry, he is a vicious and ugly character that try to pervert the young and fragile Dorian. Like for Offred, the good influence is from a person that value him, that love him, the super ego is symbolized by the character of Basil. In both books the ego is the main character itself. The all books are about, how the influences, they receive make them choose between good and bad and how after this their thoughts and actions are controlled by those influences present in their life. For both characters, they are not in knowledge of the good influence in their life, but on the contrary Offred is in knowledge of her bad influence and try with the good one to avoid temptation to give herself in the id vision. But Dorian <sup>himself</sup> is not aware of whom have a bad influence on him and reject the good one unconsciously to follow the bad one.

First, Lord Henry is ~~the character the most manipulating~~, he manipulates Dorian to become a selfish, arrogant man. An example of how <sup>brainwash</sup> vicious is Lord Henry is when he met Dorian and brain wash him by telling him that "Youth is the worth thing having" and that beauty and appearance was the most important



thing in life. After these the reaction of Dorian show how he is strong in manipulating because after his meeting with Henry, Dorian is disturbed and curious of knowing more about him. This shows that the influence Lord Henry have on him is dangerous. To add more through the all book, the reader understand that Dorian listens to every Henry's opinion and grow by them. This shows that all the bad actions he make are in a part due to the influence of Lord Henry. Secondly, the only influence that will make him good, he reject it. Basil does all he can to protect him from evil, an example is when he try to protect him from Lord Henry by not wanting them to meet. This shows how like for Offred his help could be essential, because he is the only character that doesn't want anything from him, like the family of Offred. To add more when Dorian kills him, it shows that he became completely evil, because he killed the only good influence he could have and could save him from himself. He did the complete opposite of Offred that keep and knew that the good influence keep her alive and human.

So to conclude, in both works, The Handmaid's Tale and The Picture of Dorian Gray, the authors use the influence of an evil character and of a good one to show how people choose between these two and how they makes them evaluate.

expand your conclusion



## ASSESSMENT RUBRIC FOR OIB AMERICAN OPTION WRITTEN EXAMINATION: ESSAY

*N.B.* A short response may require assessment to be lowered.

Category	Below Level -0.5 or more at the discretion of the examiner	Level 0	Level 1 + 0.5	Level 2 + 1.0	Level 3 +1.5	Level 4 +2.0
Knowledge & Understanding	No true understanding or first-hand knowledge shown. Factual inaccuracies void argument.	Some understanding but superficial. Learned response replaces first-hand knowledge. Factual inaccuracies affect argument.	Satisfactory understanding and knowledge. Development may be limited with some inadvertent or minor factual inaccuracies.	Good overall understanding. Knowledge is full and developed.	Very good and thorough understanding, including some subtlety. Levels of meaning are apparent.	Excellent understanding, including some subtlety. Levels of meaning are apparent. Detailed and pertinent knowledge.
Response to the Question	Off-subject or no clear response discernible. Observation, commentary or opinion may be present but no attempt to form an argument.	Response is partial or muddled. Argument is directed at the question but may be confused or superficial.	A satisfactory response to the main implications of the question. Some aspects of the question may be ignored.	A good response. Argument addresses the question but may need more development.	A very good response. Argument is complete and well-targeted, and the question is well-understood.	An excellent response. Argument demonstrates original thought and addresses the question with clarity and depth.
Analysis & Depth (Includes discussion of style at Level 2 and above)	Plot summary or generalizations dominate. No successful attempt at analysis.	Plot summary or generalizations frequent. Little or unsuccessful analysis.	Inconsistent analysis that does not always address important elements. Analysis may be uneven or lacking in depth.	Good analysis that appropriately addresses important elements. Generally appropriate analysis of style illustrated by relevant examples.	Very good analysis. Thoughtful, pertinent analysis of style.	Excellent analysis and argumentation. Insightful, sophisticated and coherent analysis of style.
Organization of the Essay & Integration of Evidence	No logical sequence of ideas. Chronological confusion. Development is so inadequate that clarity is in danger of dissolving completely.	Weak or mechanical structure. Development is barely adequate and examples are either impertinent or lack clear connection to the argument.	Satisfactory structure and development. Sequence of ideas generally logical. Examples not always pertinent and integration may be awkward.	Good structure with some transitions. Sequence of ideas logical. Examples are generally pertinent and most often integrated appropriately.	Very good essay structure with solid transitions. Clear development throughout and good integration of supporting evidence.	Excellent essay structure with clear transitions. Carefully planned, persuasive development throughout. Sophisticated integration of supporting evidence.
Expression	Meaning often cannot be surmised. The essay is very difficult to read.	Prose can be read and its meaning surmised even if hampered by weak control (or French interference).	Prose conveys the writer's ideas adequately. Vocabulary is sufficient and notions of good English usage are evident if sometimes inconsistently applied.	Prose shows evidence of good writing skills. Lapses are minor and do not impede understanding. Some care is shown in word choice and register.	Prose is clear and coherent. A rare lapse does not mar ideas or flow. Effective use of vocabulary and register.	Prose is articulate, fluid, and displays an excellent command of written language. Sophisticated use of vocabulary and register.
Totals						