

## Question 4 Example

‘Prisons are oppressive and horrific.’

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Comment on:

- The description of the prisoners
- How the prisoners are treated
- The impact this would have on the reader

Both texts agree with the statement to a certain extent, although Text 1 agrees with it more.

Within Text 1, the prisoner is described as “Alone for the first time since my apprehension, I stretched myself upon the bed”. The tone of this statement implies this is a privilege for the prisoner: to be alone and able to lie down. Beginning the sentence with “alone for the first time” emphasises his lack of privacy and how he was constantly watched. This oppression is further reinforced by the prison guard’s expectation that he does not lie down. Being left alone could also add to the horror of the prisoner’s situation, as he is therefore in solitary confinement.

On the other hand, in Text 2 the prisoner “was enjoying a luxury life in prison and boasted that he was ‘better off inside’”. The use of alliteration in “luxury life” highlights how good the prison is: it is the opposite of oppressive. Although this could suggest the prisoner’s low expectations and

experience of life, the adjective “luxury” does reinforce how his surroundings are significantly better than those of the majority of the public.