

My usual advice would be for a student to address more than a single film when writing an extended essay in film. This gives greater opportunity for contrast and comparison, however, this flaw is more than compensated for by the overall quality of the response. This essay is articulate, insightful, full of detailed references and rich in textual analysis. The essay is entirely consistent and coherent in structure.

The student shows an almost encyclopaedic knowledge of Leone's film and a thorough understanding of the history, development and decline of the Western.

In the abstract the student offers a well-expressed and interesting premise and in the introduction the film to be analysed is placed in a precise filmic context. The research proposition is clearly and sharply focused and the significance of the investigation is concisely justified. The student writes with a fluent and analytical style. Ideas are supported by close reference to research sources and there is excellent and sophisticated textual analysis.

The conclusion, in particular, is a point where it might be argued that the student's assessment of the "death" of the American Western is a little oversimplified. Here some reference to revisionist Westerns such as *Soldier Blue*, *The Outlaw Josey Wales*, *Dances With Wolves* and *Unforgiven* would be useful but his personal thesis is well argued.