VCE ENGLISH – COMPARATIVE TEXTS: DECONSTRUCTING PROMPT

Referring to both texts: make comparison – draw conclusions

BOTH quotes need to be referenced in the essay

5. Compare *The Queen* and *Ransom*, using the following quotations as the basis of your response:

"ELIZABETH: Well, you are my tenth Prime Minister, Mr Blair. I'd like to think there weren't too many surprises left." (The Queen)

"You have done this because you are still thinking in the old way. I told you, I tried to tell you, that my vision was of something new. Now, this time listen" (Ransom)

Priam addressing his courtesans brought him a royal chariot rather than a mule cart – reflects his wishes compared to their expectations

THEMES:
- Tradition & Change
- Leadership
- Family vs. Societal Responsibilities
- hints at Personal Journeys

QEII initial conversation with PM – reflects her experience in the role

ATTITUDES of both leaders

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Similarities:

- Attitudes of both are similar
- Both rely on, & react to, their past experiences in their roles
- All are making individual choices
- QEII & Priam both believe in the appropriateness of their actions
- Both want the others present to listen to them
- Both undertake personal journeys throughout the text; public personas questioned, but no real change
- Family important to both

Differences:

- QEII holds on to tradition; Priam challenges it
- QEII believes her role to advise; Priam sees his role make decisions
- QEII constitutional monarch; Priam absolute monarch
- Priam believes his life in the hands of Fate; QEII in controlling her destiny
- QEII shows adaptability; Blair suggests alternatives; Priam autocratic
- QEII main concern is maintaining the status of the monarchy; Priam forgoes the trappings & responsibilities of royalty to undertake a personal quest

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Point from the deconstruction

Embedded quotes from prompt

Embedded quote

Examples and embedded quotes

QUICK WRITE WORKED SAMPLE:

The *attitudes* of both leaders are laid bare in the texts. *Queen Elizabeth is shown to rely on her previous experiences to guide her in the role as Queen* as she initially addresses Tony Blair, her *"tenth Prime Minister"*, and quips that there *"weren't too many surprises"* that she was expecting from their relationship, supporting her belief that she *"knows the British people"* – *these attitudes being somewhat ironic given the events that were about to unfold.* Conversely, *in Priam, we have an absolute leader who is haunted by the past* – *his very name translating to "the price paid" and whose story is one that "every child [in Troy] knows"* – and yet who expects his family and courtesans to carry out his orders implicitly as can be seen when the states: *"I told you .. Now, this time listen".* The imperious qualities of these statements belie *the inner turmoil that he is experiencing at the loss of his son Hector.*

Refer to similarities

Fore - shadowing events

Refer to similarities

Explicit quotes from prompt

Family vs. Societal responsibilities; Personal Journey