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FEEDBACK TUTORIAL LETTER

1ST SEMESTER 2023

ASSIGNMENT 2

INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE

ILT511S

SECOND TUTORIAL FEEDBACK LETTER ON ASSIGNMENT 2 INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE 1A 2023

Dear students

Here is a short feedback letter on your second assignment. I am not going to speak about plagiarism and how to avoid it as I did so in depth in your first tutorial feedback letter as well as in the vacation school.

Students who committed plagiarism and who did not reference their sources of information IN TEXT as well as in the reference list were punished.(severely (2))

AI (artificial intelligence app.)

Dear students

Please take note of the following warning. I am not going to repeat this again.

Plagiarism is not allowed as it is theft. You are stealing someone's work, pretending that it is your own and then not acknowledging the source IN TEXT and in the reference list. The Turnitin programme used at NUST detects "similarities" to other work and generates a similarity report. You are notified and the marker is also notified. I can see the plagiarism you have committed as it is highlighted and numbered. If I click on the number in the highlighted text I am shown where you have taken the reference from. If you have not used quotation marks and acknowledged this highlighted section of text IN TEXT, you have committed plagiarism and are punished. Turnitin also shows the % of text used from a source.

I allow up to 30% and don't penalise you as long as you have referenced the source correctly.

This year some students have become really devious and dishonest in an attempt to fool lecturers and get good marks in assignments and online work. They have discovered AI apps (Artificial Intelligence) and are misusing them.

These AI apps. generate answers for students from information they gather across the internet. Answers are then generated from this material and the students then use these answers for their work. A so called "model" answer is then given. I will not comment on how these apps are good or bad in other subjects but will limit my comments to English studies. When you are asked to answer an essay type question in English Literature studies you are expected to show the lecturer a DEEP level of understanding of the novel, play or poem studied. This has to be done in the CONTEXT of what you have been taught in class or online by materials generated by your lecturer. I have written the e-book online study guide for your COLL course and also created the material on Mynust. This means that I know what is available to you, in f2f classes as well as online and in the NUST study guides. These are the parameters within which you are expected to answer questions-and yes you may use sources to assist you, as long as they do not exceed 30%(as indicated by Turnitin) and are correctly referenced.

What happens with AI apps is that the app does not know what I have taught you and what I have placed in the e book and on Mynust. It also does not know you. I probably do! This means that I know if you are a weak, average or good student.

When you request information from the AI app it generates an answer that is better than you would be capable of writing – this means you are cheating. It is also obvious to me when I mark because I know your capabilities.

Here is an answer by a first-year student generated by the AI app. It is actually quite funny because the student gives a 100% incorrect answer without realising it because she believes the AI app is faultless. She believes her cheating will be undetected and does not make the effort to check her answer to verify if she has actually answered what has been asked. If this is not what has happened then she has copied directly from an unreliable source without checking the answer. It is even possible that she has not read the story. Whatever the scenario, she has produced a 100% rubbish answer and provided me with some good laughs. I have been warned by Turnitin which shows that she has 11% similarity and 100% AI assistance.:)

I will underline all the rubbish she has written as well as the obvious help from the AI app.

QUESTION 1

The title of a literary work can serve as a preview or a gateway to the themes, motifs, and symbolism that the reader should expect to encounter in the story. The title of Njabulo Ndebele's short story, "The Test", is no exception. The title is an intriguing one that suggests that a challenge, examination, or trial is about to take place. "The Test" is a poignant examination of the tensions and divisions that exist within South African society during apartheid. This essay will explore the relevance of the title "The Test" in Njabulo Ndebele's short story and how it reflects the story's central themes.

The story begins with a young black boy named <u>Themba</u>, who lives in a racially segregated South African township during the apartheid era. The opening paragraph sets the stage for the story's themes and its relevance to the title. It reads, <u>"The township was full of rumours about the coming test. There was no doubt that the test was going to be something special. It had been advertised in the newspapers and on the radio".</u>

The "test" mentioned in the opening paragraph refers to <u>a scholarship examination that is going</u> to be held for black students. The exam is an opportunity for Themba and other black children to escape the cycle of poverty and oppression that they are born into. The title "The Test" refers to the examination, but it also has a deeper meaning. The test is not just an academic challenge but <u>a test of character, resilience, and hope in the face of adversity.</u>

The story's relevance to the title is evident in how the characters approach the test. <u>For Themba</u> and his classmates, the test is not just an academic challenge; it is a lifeline. Themba's father, a labourer, cannot afford to pay for his son's education, and the scholarship is the only way for Themba to attend school. The test, therefore, represents a chance to break the cycle of poverty and hopelessness that is their reality. Themba and his classmates' preparations for the test are symbolic of their resilience and determination. They are determined to succeed despite the odds stacked against them. <u>The children study in the evenings by candlelight, and they make their own</u> textbooks from scraps of paper. Their determination and resourcefulness are a testament to their <u>strength of character and their desire to succeed</u>.

The test is also a test of the oppressive apartheid system. The scholarship is only available to black children because the white government refuses to fund black education. The test is a way for the government to absolve itself of its responsibility to provide equal education opportunities for all South Africans. By making the scholarship available to black children, the government can claim that it is doing something to address the inequality in education. However, the test also exposes the systemic racism that is at the heart of the apartheid system. Additionally, the title "The Test" suggests that the story is about an examination of some kind, a challenge that the characters must face and overcome. In this case, the test is a political one, as the protagonist, Thoba, is forced to confront the realities of apartheid and decide whether he will take a stand against it or continue to go along with the status quo. The test is not only for Thoba but also for the other characters in the story, who are all faced with their own moral dilemmas and must decide where they stand on the issue of apartheid.

Alternatively, the title suggests that there is a right answer, a correct response that the characters must provide in order to pass the test. This idea is echoed throughout the story, as the characters struggle to figure out what the right thing to do is. Thoba's father, for example, believes that the right answer is to keep his head down and avoid getting involved in politics, while Thoba's friend Sbu believes that the right answer is to fight back against the government. Thoba himself is torn between these two perspectives and must ultimately decide for himself what the right course of action is.

The title also suggests that there will be consequences for failing the test. This idea is also explored throughout the story, as the characters face the very real possibility of imprisonment, torture, or even death if they are caught opposing the government. Thoba's decision to take a stand against apartheid is not only a test of his moral courage but also a test of his bravery and willingness to risk everything for what he believes in.

The relevance of the title is further demonstrated in the climax of the story. Themba is sick on the day of the test and cannot attend. His absence from the exam represents a failure, not just for him but for the entire black community. Themba's sickness is symbolic of the illnesses that afflict the black community under apartheid. The story suggests that the sickness is not just physical but also psychological, as the black community is constantly subjected to the stress and trauma of living under apartheid.

The story's denouement reflects the themes of hope and resilience that are central to the story. Themba's teacher visits him at home and gives him a letter from the scholarship committee. The letter informs Themba that he has been awarded the scholarship, despite his absence from the test. Themba's success represents a triumph over adversity and a testament to the power of hope and resilience. In conclusion, the title "The Test" is significant in Njabulo Ndebele's short story because it reflects the central themes of the story and provides insight into the characters' struggles and motivations. The test is not only a political one but also a moral and personal one, as the characters must confront their own beliefs and values and decide where they stand on the issue of apartheid. The title suggests that there is a right answer, but also that there will be consequences for failing the test, making Thoba's decision to take a stand against apartheid all the more courageous and inspiring.

This is utter rubbish. None of this has anything to do with Ndebele's short story "The Test" which we have studied. The AI has generated a well written answer , in good English but the content is "cringe-worthy". The lazy student has made no effort to check the accuracy of the answer and has simply copied and pasted this nonsense believing in AI as if it were a god.

Here is an example of an answer copied directly from sources which the student does not acknowledge IN TEXT. This whole text is highlighted in pink by Turnitin showing me the plagiarism committed by the student.

QUESTION 1 (35 MARKS)

Comment on the relevance of the title "The Test" in the short story with that title by Ndebele.

The Test "by Njabulo Ndebele portrays the individual choice to suffer in an environment that only dictates and controls the lives of many. "The Test" is about more than boyhood suffering, but is rather about the desire for autonomy.

The test is written in third person, the story as it is told through Thoba's perspectives. A young boy from privileged family and he has a deep desire to experience the hardships his contemporaries undergo" Thoba envied these boys" (P7) and it is described that he has a strong emotional longing for this suffering because he comes from an advantaged family, he come under scrutiny from his less fortunate peers. These boys have successful parents who have worked hard to be able to bring their children into a better class. Mpiyake and Simangele mock Thoba because his sheltered lifestyle has refused him many experiences of suffering for which he is so desperately longs. The

test deals with the hardship of being a boy and the desire to publicly test their limits that comes with growing up. A main theme of this story is that of masculinity and all that which comes withcompetences, stubborn, aggression and warped sense. (p9) it is linked how the boy engage fights with one another, as they use fights to deal with aggression Ndebele makes many references to the boys getting into physical fights with one another, one instance seen in the line "A fight seemed inevitable..." (pq. 9). The boys use fighting to deal with their aggression as well as a way through which to determine who is stronger and therefore who is more capable 4/20/23, 3:25 PM Analyzing the Society Portrayed by Ndebele: [Essay Example], 1746 words Grades Fixer https://gradesfixer.com/free-essay-examples/testing-the-fools-society-and-maturity-in ndebelesfiction/ 2/4 to deal with their respective suffering. Apart from receiving gratification and pleasure from fighting each other, the boys also find satisfaction and enjoyment in showing each other their superiority by putting themselves through pain and suffering. An explicit example of this is when Vusi asks Simangele: "How would you like to be a horse in the rain?" (p. 14). The boys 'one-up' each other by saying "I bet you can never go into the rain without your shirt" (p. 14) and "Let's see if you too can be a horse" (p. 14). The boys run through the rain half-naked and put themselves through pain and suffering in order to merely prove their physical prowess and superiority over one another. This attitude is once again proven in the line: "Weaklings, the lot of them" (p. 18) In the end of "The Test" Thoba is able to experience the hardships of the other boys. Wet, cold, in pain and sick -he is finally content. He says "There was suddenly something deeply satisfying and pleasurable about the pain" (p. 24). Thoba's efforts of asserting his masculinity, proving his supremacy and experiencing real suffering paid off, he is at last "feeling so much alive" (p. 24). *The boys produce pain on their own terms – regardless of the oppressors in their respective lives.* Vusi, Simangele, Nana, Mpiyakhe and especially Thoba take control of their own lives and experiences and refuse to have other forces dictate and prescribe their sufferings. Mpiykakhe patronizingly says "Softies, all of you. You're too higher-up. That's your problem" (p. 12). However, it is later established that Mpiyakhe is also "higher-up" as he is the son of a successful man who owns a prosperous taxi service. Mpiyakhe lives in a large house, goes to a good school, eats well and is therefore also dubbed a "softie" by Thoba and the boys of Mayaba Street. It can be deduced that Mpiyakhe hates being teased and adopts the role of sufferer to attempt to hide the unavoidable fact that he is a "softie". This attitude is proven in the line: "...he would let out steam on Thoba, trying to transfer the ridicule" (p. 13). It is suggested that he also secretly aches for the suffering of the other boys.

In The Test by Njabulo Ndebele we have the theme of isolation, independence, connection, insecurity, confusion, tension, control and identity. Narrated in the third person by an unnamed narrator the reader realizes from the beginning of the story that Ndebele may be exploring the theme of isolation. Thoba doesn't follow the lead of the other boys when he is playing football. He does not chase the ball like them. This may be symbolically important as it suggests that Thoba is isolated from the other boys. He may be playing football with them but he is not really participating. It is also noticeable that when Thoba is standing on the veranda of Simangele's home he wishes that he could fit in with the other boys. If anything, Thoba may long to connect with the other boys rather than feeling as though he is on the outside or isolated from the boys. Thoba's desire to feel connected to the other boys is so strong that on occasions he refuses to wear his shoes despite his mother's advice. He longs to be like the other boys which may suggest that Thoba is somewhat insecure about who he is. Thoba also appears to be confused when it comes to his parents. He doesn't understand that both his mother and father have his best intentions at heart. Rather Thoba wishes that he could have the same independence from his parents that his friends appear to have from their parents. It is as though Thoba considers that the family values his friends hold and have are more important and desirable than the family values he has with his own parents.

Apart from the page references made by the student and the one lengthy reference [4/20/23, 3:25 PM Analyzing the Society Portrayed by Ndebele: [Essay Example], 1746 words Grades Fixer https://gradesfixer.com/free-essay-examples/testing-the-fools-society-and-maturity-in-ndebeles-fiction/ 2/4] there are no source acknowledgements.

Many other students used the same words and sentences used in this text eg "Thoba doesn't follow the lead of the other boys when he is playing football. He does not chase the ball like them. This may be symbolically important as it suggests that Thoba is isolated from the other boys. He may be playing football with them but he is not really participating."

It is impossible that 40% of other students are using these exact sentences if this is not being copied from somewhere!!

This essay is also well written and I know that the student is not capable of producing writing of this standard = **plagiarism**.

I hope this is clear now. Use your own words and ideas and use sources sparingly. Make sure the Turnitin programme does not show more than 30% similarity. AVOID AI apps. If you use them they may not show more than 30%. Make sure you paraphrase all work taken from sources or AI and show this material IN TEXT as well as your reference list.

Now to the questions:

QUESTION 1 (35 MARKS)

Comment on the relevance of the title "The Test" in the short story with that title by Ndebele. Here is a good answer. The student has not copied, has used own words, has indicated sources IN Text and has not committed plagiarism or used AI

Question 1

The relevance of the theme The" Test" on the short story (The Test) by Ndembele.

The test is relevant to the story because it is about young boys who test themselves against each other and nature through endurance against cold and rain.

The story is told from Thoba's perspective, he is a young boy who comes from a middle class family and he was more privileged than his friends. Thoba always yearn for a less privilege life of his friends, he has no idea that his friends do not choose that life. Thabo can recall that he has three pairs of shoes, this shows us that he is from an advantaged family and his mother always remind him to count his blessings. When he looks at his friends cracked feet, he too wises to have cracked feet. That's why when his parents are away from home he usually goes out to play bare footed. These boys test against themselves to see which one of them will withstand a long run through the freezing cold rain. For Thoba the test is his great chance to assert his toughness and to assert his independence from his parents, who would rather cuddle him than see him subject himself to the physical pain of the test (Super summary, 2923). The test, was also Thoba's chance to prove to his friends that he is not soft as they call him. Vusi takes off his shirt and Thoba follows the lead. Mpiyakhe kept his shirt on, this made Thoba to feel more superior over him. Even though Thoba becomes exhausted after running for a while, he gained courage after passing through a group of women and started running again. Commented [BA1]: spelling

-	Commented [BA2]: yearns
1	Commented [BA3]: privileged
-	Commented [BA4]: ?????
-	Commented [BA5]: reminds
-	Commented [BA6]: wishes

When Thoba returned home after the test, he refuses to light the fire as he was ordered by his parents. This is because after the test he has achieved a new found confidence, both with his family members and his peers (Super summary, 2023).

In conclusion," The Test is more than about boy hood suffering, but is rather the desire for power and belongingness (IPL Essay, 2023).

This essay is quite good but should have contained more happenings from Thoba's run in the rain.

QUESTION 2 (35 MARKS)

Comment on the theme of "Predestination" in the play *Oedipus the King* with reference to aspects from the text

This is a good answer done by the student without plagiarism or AI. I underline the errors.

Oedipus

The King Laius and Queen Jacosta were expecting a baby boy they were aware of the prophecy that he would kill his father and marry his own mother. They tried to get rid of the baby boy which was Oedipus so the prophecy could not happen but things turned the other way around.

The royal family tried to avoid this horrible fate by <u>allowing letting</u> Oedipus die by nature. They could not kill Oedipus by themselves as this will only get the gods angry. They led him be taken to the mountains but the person did not do as he was <u>ask</u> to do and so Oedipus was alive. The royal family thought that they had <u>ran</u> away from their fate and that their lives were worry free. They did their best to get rid of Oedipus but it is clear that they could not change their fate. There is no way they can run away from what the gods <u>has</u> decided what will happen. The gods knew the truth and their final fate will happen. It was unfair what has happened to him but there was a reason behind all this.

Oedipus was cursed from birth so nothing will change in his life. Nothing could be done do change his final outcome of his life. He ran away from his home in Corinth so he could protect his family from the prophecy not knowing that this will cause more problems<u>. He running</u> away has caused Commented [BA7]: Good IN TEXT referencing

him more problems. During his travel to Thebes he came across some men who was king Laius and his driver. He killed the driver and without knowing he also killed the king which was his father. Oedipus is trying to run away from his fate because he feels that gods are less important. In the play Oedipus the king struggles with facing the truth about his fate. Hubris caused him to be an arrogant and ignorant person. He looks down at other people including his people and the Gods and this is caused by his Hubris. He could not see that the gods are above him. He has killed his own father and married his own mother without knowing and that he has <u>fulfill</u> the prophecy.

He did not believe in the gods and accused them of lying and wanting to overthrow him<u>. He</u> accused the gods of being paid by Creon so he could get the grow (page279). Oedipus being ignorant and arrogant caused him to be blind to see the truth. Tiresias the blind prophet told Oedipus that he killed king Laius. He denied this and called the prophet crazy. People tried to avoid his downfall but he has caused his own downfall by thinking he is more powerful than the gods and nobody could tell him anything.

In conclusion what the gods see and <u>tells can't be change</u>. You can try everything you can but nothing will change and that your final fate will come to <u>past</u>.

This is authentic students work. It has language errors and reflects the competence of the student. As a result I awarded a good mark of 71%

The following answer is dishonest work and 100 % AI generated:

QUESTION 2

1. Introduction

Sophocles' Oedipus the King is a classic Greek tragedy that explores the themes of fate, free will, and predestination. One of the prominent themes in the play is "predestination", which implies that certain events and actions are predetermined by the gods and cannot be changed. This theme of predestination is central to the play and is explored through various aspects of the text. The play follows the tragic story of Oedipus, a man who tries to escape his destiny but ultimately fulfills it. This essay will examine the theme of predestination in Oedipus the King by analyzing the various aspects of the play that highlight this theme.

2. Concepts Linked to The Theme of Predestination.

2.1. The Oracle of Delphi and The Prophecy

The play begins with the Oracle of Delphi revealing that Thebes is plagued by a curse that can only be lifted by punishing the murderer of the previous king, Laius. This prophecy sets the stage for the rest of the play, and it foreshadows Oedipus's tragic fate. Oedipus is determined to solve the mystery of the curse and save his people, but his efforts are ultimately in vain. As the play progresses, it becomes clear that Oedipus's fate is predetermined, and he cannot escape it.

The priest believes that the plague is a result of the gods' anger and that they have predetermined a solution. He says, "The god commands us to expel from the land of Thebes an old defilement we are sheltering" (Sophocles, 5). This statement implies that the gods have predetermined the cause of the plague and the solution, which is to find the killer of King Laius and expel them from the city. The Oracle of Delphi also predicts that the murderer is among the Thebans, and that the king's murderer will be revealed to be Oedipus himself. This prophecy sets the stage for the rest of the play, and it shows how predestination is a significant theme in Oedipus the King.

Oedipus, as the new king of Thebes, takes up the task of finding the killer and bringing them to justice. The prophecy becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy when Oedipus learns that he is, in fact, the murderer of Laius. However, Oedipus was unaware that Laius was the man he killed on his journey to Thebes. This revelation comes as a shock to Oedipus, and he refuses to believe it at first. However, as the evidence piles up, he realizes that the prophecy of him killing his father and marrying his mother has come true. The prophecy thus creates a sense of inevitability and predestination, as Oedipus's actions were determined by fate and the gods.

2.2. Fate Vs. Free Will

The theme of fate vs free will is a prominent one in the play Oedipus the King, which explores the idea that human destiny is predetermined, and humans have no control over their fate. However, the play also presents the notion that humans have some free will, and their choices can affect their destiny to a certain extent.

On one hand, the play suggests that fate is an all-powerful force that shapes human lives. The prophecy that Oedipus would kill his father and marry his mother was set in motion long before he was born. Despite his efforts to avoid this fate, his actions unwittingly lead him to fulfill it. This notion of predestination is further emphasized by the role of the gods in the play, who are seen as powerful beings that dictate human destiny. Thus, according to this interpretation, Oedipus had no control over his fate and was merely a pawn in the hands of the gods.

On the other hand, the play also suggests that humans have some control over their destiny. Oedipus's decision to investigate the murder of Laius, his biological father, and his decision to blind himself at the end of the play are examples of the choices that he makes that affect his fate. Although these choices are ultimately limited by the prophecy and the gods' power, they do suggest that humans have some degree of free will.

The play also explores the tension between fate and free will. Oedipus's determination to solve the mystery of his past and escape his fate ultimately leads him to fulfill it. In this sense, his free will is constrained by the forces of fate. However, Oedipus's actions also suggest that he was complicit in his own downfall. His stubbornness, arrogance, and lack of self-awareness ultimately lead him to his tragic end. Thus, the play suggests that while fate may be a powerful force, humans also have a responsibility for their actions and choices.

2.3. The Role of The Gods

In the play Oedipus the King, the role of the gods is central to the concept of predestination. Throughout the play, it is suggested that the gods have predetermined the fate of Oedipus and that his actions are ultimately beyond his control. One of the earliest references to the role of the gods in predestination can be found in the opening scene of the play, where the priest speaks to Oedipus about the plague that has struck Thebes. The priest says:

"For now, as never before, the god's voice speaks. From Pythian shrine itself, revealing ruin. For Thebes, and for her sons". (Sophocles, 37-39) Here, the priest suggests that the gods have spoken through the oracle at Delphi and have foretold the doom of Thebes. This implies that the gods are in control of the events that will unfold in the play, and that the fate of the characters is predetermined.

Later in the play, when Oedipus is questioning Tiresias about the murderer of Laius, Tiresias says: "I say that you, with both your eyes, are blind: You cannot see the wretchedness of your life, Nor in what evils you are steeped". (Sophocles, 427-429)

Here, Tiresias is suggesting that Oedipus is blind to the truth of his own life because he is unable to see the role that the gods have played in his fate. Tiresias implies that Oedipus's destiny has been predetermined by the gods and that he is powerless to change it.

In the final scene of the play, after Oedipus has blinded himself and been exiled from Thebes, the chorus speaks of the power of fate and the gods:

"Behold this Oedipus,- him who knew the famous riddles and was a man most masterful; Not a citizen who did not look with envy on his lot-see him now and see the breakers of misfortune swallow him".

(Sophocles, 1518-1521)

Here, the chorus suggests that Oedipus's downfall was predetermined by the gods and that his fate was beyond his control. The phrase "breakers of misfortune" implies that the gods have acted against Oedipus and that he is the victim of their wrath.

2.4. The Role of Jocasta

The concept of predestination is further explored through the character of Jocasta, Oedipus's wife, and mother. Jocasta tells Oedipus about the prophecy that predicted his fate and how she and King Laius tried to avoid it. She says, "A prophet came to Laius one fine day and he said that doom would strike him down at the hands of a son, our son, to be born of our own flesh and blood" (Sophocles, 52). This prophecy led to King Laius ordering the death of their infant son, which ultimately led to Oedipus being raised by another family and not knowing his true identity. The theme of predestination is also evident in the way that the characters in the play react to the events that unfold. For example, when Jocasta realizes that Oedipus is her son, she says, "Ah me! This is the last / Time I shall look upon thee" (Sophocles,

1222-1223). Jocasta's reaction shows that she understands that Oedipus's fate is predetermined, and there is nothing she can do to change it.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the theme of predestination is a central theme in Oedipus the King. The play explores the idea that certain events are predetermined and cannot be changed. From the very beginning of the play, it is clear that Oedipus's fate is predetermined, and he cannot escape it. The various instances in the play where the theme of predestination is highlighted show that the characters understand that they are powerless in the face of fate. The Oracle's prophecy sets the stage for the play, and it creates a sense of inevitability and predestination. The play also explores the concept of fate versus free will, highlighting the idea that while fate may play a role in an individual's life, personal choices also have an impact. Finally, the gods' influence in the play emphasizes the theme of predestination, as they are believed to control an individual's fate. Overall, Oedipus the King is a powerful exploration of the theme of predestination, and it continues to be a timeless classic in the world of literature.

The headings and numbering as well as the length and complexity of the English used in the paragraphs are a clear indication to me that this is not the students own work. Turnitin also indicates a 100% AI influence on the answer.

I have given all students misusing AI only 50% for the work eg 18/35

After all the marks have been added most students who relied on AI had less than 40%.

I hope this has made the concept of the usage of AI apps clear to you and that these good answers have shown you what was expected in the assignment.

Good luck with the exams!!

AB