*Archives : This is a previous essay – for a past question: However please note the study guide has since changed and it is now unlikely students would be required to address this question – You may however find some useful passages in the essay*

Social values form our everyday beliefs and ideas that are,-characteristic of cultural ideology at a particular point in time. Dominant social values are often reflected through the structure of popular narrative forms such as film and television, advertising and popular music and subsequently influence the representation of character, theme and storyline.

National identity has been a central focus in Australian media and has often been characterised by a set of distinguishing social values. The traditional Australian icon, the " bush legend " has been represented in films such as Gallipoli and Shame where both historical and contemporary interpretations are presented. Both texts present conflicting attitudes towards the discourses of cultural identity, mateship and gender roles, through their interpretation of an established, romanticized and stereotypical conception of Australian culture.

Gallipoli reinforces those social values attached to sentiments of the bush legend in a positive manner , whereas Shame examines the negative aspects of this concept and consequently confronts an outdated myth to reflect emerging and changing social values

Gallipoli continues to be considered the vehicle of Australian culture. Like some Australian films, it is responsible for the resurgence in national feeling. Popular music, such as Peter Allens “I still call Australia home” and Men at Works Down Under reinforced Gallipoli’s call to national patriotism.

Gallipoli transmitted, maintained, extended and repaired. the unsuccessful historical war of Gallipoli to a national symbol by rendering it in a fictional form. The two characters representing the idealistic youth who were ready to sacrifice themselves for their country with only one surviving iconize Australian patriotism.

The film attempts to reflect values from its production period where classes are reconciled ; upper middle class Archie and his aboriginal mate. It reconciled ethnicity; Irish Frank and Anglo Archie with British values both developing Australian values and Anti-British values. It reconciled residents from the country to the city; Archie and Frank respectively. The film also displayed the Australian myth; mate ship between Frank and Archie throughout their journey to the war field. The militaristic and masculinist myths of young nationhoodis seen in the movie; gross British Australian behavior of hurting the innocent. There are also dialogues of the disinterest to be a part of the war in the film; being a colonial the hatred towards foreign cultures especially the ruling empire, British is portrayed in the film

The representation of the Australian male in Gallipoli is central and intrinsic to the development of the narrative. The film begins by introducing Archie Hamilton’s athletics training, which is set in the outback. Immediately two central elements of the bushmen myth is affirmed ; strength of character and harmony with the land .Archie is portrayed as disciplined and focused towards his physical training set amongst the harsh Australian landscape . The unity between Archy and the environment is the foundation in which his character is represented . He reflects the romanticized stereotype of the typical Australian bushmen , he is strong healthy, fair and patriotic . These idealised character traits are consistently represented and reinforced throughout the film. His physical prowess results in his victory in the athletics championship; assists him in navigating across the desert and makes him the logical choice as the troop’s runner in Gallipoli. His sense of pride in his country results in his desire to join the war effort, and in his attitude to "you've got to do your bit", and "if we don’t stop them there they could end up here". Archy 's bushman skills enable his recruitment into the lighthouse and his determination is reflected as he lies about his name and age to the recruiting officer. Archy Hamilton’s character represents and glorifies the popular folklore myth of the Australian male.

Archy' s character is contrasted with another popular Australian stereotype , the larrikin Frank who is seen deserting his job in defiance of the boss and is indifferent to being involved in what he sees as a foreign war .Frank represents the city bred resourceful individual that is reservedly self-orientated and driven . However he shares similar sporting pursuits with Achy. and when, eventually the two characters meet in competition they become friends and enlist in the war together. The relationship of mateship and loyalty is a dominant value that bonds their friendship and is positively reinforced throughout the film . This is represented throughout the film as an inclusive male character trait. Similarly the film constantly affirms the dominance of the male character where references to women are in supporting the war effort or because they provide the motivation for Frank to enlist in the Lighthouse.

Shame reverses the positive representation of the bush legend by emphasizing the somewhat negative ramifications of exclusive mateship and the male dominated social group . In Shame the- representation of the mateship in Ginborak is challenged by directly exposing the often hidden aspects of mateship such as conformity , prejudice and sexual abuse .

The film opens in the familiar bush setting , focusing on a motorcyclist riding into the town of Ginborak . It is only when the rider dismounts and removes the helmet that we discover the cyclists gender. Asta a city barrister enters the bastion of male mateship , the local hotel and enquires whether they have any rooms available , which is greeted by sexually suggestive replies from the hotel patriots . The local police Sergeant interject and in a rather condescending mariner advise Asti " that this is no place for a lady " . The opening sequence , exposes aspects of the " bush legend " , such as institutions like the local hotel being closed and rigid and inhabited by sexist males and patronizing representatives of the law. The opening sequence sets the thematic context for the development of the film which represents the Ginborak male inhabitants as a symbol of abuse towards moral standards of behavior .

The male inhabitants of the town are re-represented as aggressive ignorant and openly abusive towards women. Many of the young men are portrayed. as endlessly roaming the streets to the disdain of the community. Their bonding is represented by the need to conform to the strength of the group as opposed to any distinct loyalty or friendship

The representation of cultural identity in Gallipoli and Shame contrast significantly. Gallipoli embraces those character traits associated with the traditional stereotype of the bush legend such as loyalty with ones mate , physical prowess and sporting skills, skepticism towards authority yet pride in one’s country and a sense of harmony with the land . The central characters, Archie and Frank represent two of the most popular stereotypes, which have been long celebrated in ballads, and stories of the pioneering Australian . The film however represents aspects of the bush legend that are relevant today and ignores the jingoistic, racist and sexist attitudes that were present at the turn of the century. The text essentially represents positive character traits and social values from a distinctive viewpoint that is selective and consequently presents aglorification of the idea of Australian identity in the early part of 1980.

Shame is similarly selective in its representation of the stereotyped "bush legend " however in contrast\*to Gallipoli , the hidden and dark side of the Australian male is exposed. Like Gallipoli the film is set in a small Australian outback town ,however there are considerable differences in the representations of the typical Australian male. This is apparent from the outset of the film where the local men are introduced in what is established as their familiar and secure environment ; the local hotel they are presented as arrogant , sexist. And suspicious towards any intrusion into their exclusive domain

The social "" values represented in Gallipoli are shown mainly through the views and attitudes of the two main characters . Archy and Frank share a distinct loyalty to each other bonded by mateship It is this value of mateship that predominately influences much of the stories development . Frank who initially resents the call for conscripts joins Archy in the recruitment to the light horse . Frank is rejected and joins the infantry , however circumstances see the two characters once again united in Cairo.

The diggers prevailing creed was a romantic one , inherited from the gold miner and the bushman , of which the chief article was that a man should at all times stand by his mate . This was the law which the a good Australian must never break

The social values of the "Bush Legend " are also linked in the film though the consistent references to sport. When Archy and Frank enlist they are told that the war is considered " the greatest game of all " The pursuit of competiveness is reflected as an inherent quality of the Australian soldier. In the desert in Cairo the soldiers play a football match at the" foot of the great Pyramids’ is here that the soldiers love of the game is polarized with one of the world’s great wonders . The pursuit of sport is further reinforced in the water at Gallipoli where the soldiers engage in a dangerous game diving to avoid artillery fire . In the final scene Archy prepares for the sprint across the field towards the enemy by recounting words of motivation from his athletics training.

This use of a sporting motive in a military context effectively captures the essence of the bush legend , a value system prized by a culture that; favors predominately male outdoor pursuits

Further social values distinctively related to the " Bush Legend ", reinforced in Gallipoli is the disdain for other cultures . This is apparent through the presentation of the British officers throughout the film . The Australian soldiers mimic their superior, British officers , by riding donkey’s arid offering mock salutes in defiance. The Egyptians are presented as sly traders when a company of Australian soldiers attempt, to redeem an overpriced souvenir.

Their sense of anti - authoritarianism is also characteristic of the "Bush Legend". This is apparent in their encounter with the British officers in the streets of Cairo and their refusal to take military training seriously . In the final scene of the film as the Australian soldiers prepare for the futile advance to the Turkish trenches , the Australian officer Major Barton attempts to abort the orders of the British high command

Social values represented in Shame are similarly reflected through the central character . Here however there is a decisively opposing motive . one, which is used to illustrate and expose the hidden elements of mateship". Shame forces the audience to view the behavior of the local men from Asia's viewpoint .The male dominance in the town is presented as a strong force reflecting the "dark side of mateship arid emphasises the strong sense of antagonism or suspicion towards difference , that is towards those who don’t conform to their ideology " Due to the dominant values of the men , Tim Curtis finds it difficult to believe his daughters rape and is submissive in not actively seeking justice .

Mateship is portrayed not out of loyalty but through conformity and peer- group pressure .The gangs has no individual strengths and are shallow as individuals but powerful, cunning and almost invincible as a group. Their force of numbers assist in justifying and defending their assaults on the town’s women by claiming they brought it. on themselves "just because a few little sluts in this town got what they deserve " Unlike Gallipoli sporting references are reduced to the contest the gang provoke amongst themselves while harassing the local women . The men of the town have no respect for authority, because they are the town's authority, relentlessly serving the groups gratification .Their parents will riot face up to the realisation of their rapist sons suggesting their attitudes are similar . The fathers of the boys seemed to have passed on the values believing they only acted as " nature intended "and in their action of passing around the hat to bail out the convicted boys. The local police Sergeant Wal Cuddy serves to reinforce the diminishing value system the town abides by. His apathy towards the actions of the boys only encourages their behavior .

He has the power to alter events yet he shares the same cultural assumptions of the rapists . Basic institutions , such as the law and the family , are clearly guilty within the context established by the film ". These institutions are crucial to the dissemination of basic values (such as gender roles and mateship)

There is a strong contrast in the representation of the " Bush legend and social values in Gallipoli and Shane . Gallipoli chooses to support and positively represent the values indoctrinated by the Australian male during this period . The value of mateship through loyalty to ones mates is glorified as a noble characteristic of the Australian soldier .Their patriotism in upholding their countries honor , and their resourcefulness and athletic ism in the field are similarly celebrated . The film collectively represents the popular perception of the "Bush Legend " as attaining a high set of social values

Shame attacks the mainstream values that Gallipoli upholds , exposing the- "dark side " of the Australian male . Shame's thematic-content confronts the negative ramifications of mateship , is critical of institutions such as the family and the law and importantly addresses the degradation. of women in the community

Shame uses the narrative conventions and melodramatic techniques to attack mainstream cultural values arid intuitions while; these other films use the same conventions and techniques to support those values.

The men in Ginborak reflect none of the values presented in Gallipoli. Shame challenges isolated rural values where there is a distinct misappropriation of national pride and identity and forces the audience to confront issues of rape , abuse and community disorder. The film even suggests "the sexual terror inflicted on *the* women in the town is not just an aberration but an intrinsic part of Australian culture "

The representations in both Gallipoli and Shame are characteristic of how changing social values influence the text . Gallipoli set in 1915 presents many of its representations from this period . There is an intrinsic relationship with the land, to the "Bush Legends” attributes of athleticism, resourcefulness, mateship and anti-authoritarianism.

The Anzacs in particular were portrayed as belonging to a new , vigorous race from the Great South land , grown strong through generations of combat, with the Australian bush ;at the same time they were seen as having.... inherited the transcendent qualities of the heroes of the legendary Trojan battlefield

The absence of references to women who are "relegated to supporters of the war effort ", similarly reflects attitudes in this period this is reinforced through the Anzac mythology, which focuses exclusively on the male genders heroics .

Shame however represents contemporary values, which criticise "the traditional celebration of mateship .conformity , gender roles and the role of basic institutions of the family and the law " Shame reworks themes such *as* mateship and stereotypes central to the bush legendry ''as a way of confronting contemporary issues such as rape and sexual harassment . The film represents the changing values of society, particularly the role of women . Asta's character , an independent city barrister represents the changing role of women in contemporary society . Her surprise and indignation of the sexual torment inflicted on the town’s women lead her to educate them in standing" up for their rights. She is also critical of the law, which in today’s society is responsible to defend the rights of every citizen. . The film also criticises the family institution as rigid and submissive to the male breadwinner. Asta's independence and occupation again highlight changing social values .

Gallipoli challenges very little of the social values it represents It is selective in its representations , which ultimately glorifies the notion of the "Bush legend" The film does however respond to changing social attitudes towards war by emphasising the sense of loss and futility of the events on Gallipoli. The closing shot of the film is a frozen image of Archy running as the fatal shot is heard . This ironically challenges Australia, involvement in what, is today .viewed as a foreign war. In a decade preceding the Vietnam War ,attitudes had clearly changed which questioned Australia’s naive involvement in foreign wars.

Instead audiences are left with a symbolic presentation of the slaughter of the "flower of the youth of Western Australia "

Shame is relentless in its attack on social values represented in the rural town of Ginborak. The film exposes the characters and values that Gallipoli ignores , the hidden ramifications of mateship , the overt sexism and suspicion of difference and individuality. Shame challenges existing rural institutions and environments resistant to change This is a recurrent theme that is highlighted in the films closure where a group of outraged people , mainly women express their determination to confront those forces terrorizing them .

The final shot as in Gallipoli as a freeze frame that "signifies that the close of the film does not mean that the issues raised in the text are also closed " This is a predominant distinction between the two texts as while Gallipoli recounts the horror of war , Shame reinforces contemporary urban values by challenging and exposing community behavior resistant to change

Gallipoli and Shame reflect how social values shape and influence the content of media texts . They depict how traditional values have been selective and essentially remained unchanged as in Gallipoli and how they have evolved and are forced to change as in Shame.