 Pygmalion ALARM Matrix Act One – ‘Pickering Meets Eliza’

| IdentifyThe theme conveyed by the composer | DescribeTechniques used by composer | ExplainPurpose, function, role, effect, impact | AnalyseHow/ why is it working to its effect? | Critically AnalyseExplain how the tone shows the relationship between the character and the wider world |
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| Conflicting cultural worlds (education, social class and gender) | Allusion and Simile“Remember that you are a human being with a soul and the divine gift of articulate speech: that your native language is the language of Shakespeare and Milton and the Bible; and don’t sit there crooning like a bilious pigeon” | Eliza meets Pickering and the ‘note taker’ for the first time who proceeds to brazenly critique her Cockney language. The note taker’, Higgins alludes to well-known authors and texts to highlight the contrast between class distinctions of that era. As a scholar of dialect, he proclaims that the speech and etiquette of such distinguished authors assists in preserving class distinctions. He further satirizes middle class morality by comparing the behaviour of Eliza to a ‘bilious pigeon’. | Shaw highlights the conflicting cultural worlds of ‘Pygmalion’ by drawing attention to the class distinctions of nineteenth century England through language. He further satirizes the shallowness of middle class morality by comparing the behaviour of individuals who are in a ‘lower class’ to the behaviour of animals. Higgins initial cultural assumption of Eliza is affirmed through her cockney accent and language. | As a result, Shaw manipulates language features to emphasise the vulgarity of the cockney accent to critique the superficial nature of the upper class whose sole judgement relies upon language and presentation. |
| Evolving and transformative identities | Symbolism“A birdcage hangs in the window; but its tenant died long ago: it remains as a memorial only” |       |       |       |
| Education and language as a means for individual growth/ development | Metaphor“You see this creature with her kerbstone English: the English that will keep her in the gutter to the end of her days” |       |       |       |