Dear Jayden and Renee,

After going through your “Downfall” handouts and texts last week, you are now ready to start on your next outcome task.

This one is Outcome 2 of Unit 4 and it requires you to produce an approximately 250-word written response for a specific audience and purpose, incorporating information from three or more texts. Your “audience” is a reader who is learning about those last days in the bunker at Berlin for the first time, and your “purpose” is to show him/her what living in the bunker would have been like. Within that broad scope, you can choose between a number of different focus points, for example:

* The mental health of the bunker inhabitants, how they were holding up against the pressures of living underground, under constant bombardment by the ever-approaching enemy troops
* The motivation of those in the bunker to remain there despite the fact that each day made it more unlikely for them to eventually get out, from blind loyalty to Hitler and his cause to fear of being treated as a traitor if caught escaping, to strict adherence to a military oath
* The descent of Hitler himself into madness as his plans were collapsing around him and even close followers like Albert Speer were beginning to disobey his orders, leading him to feel betrayed by everyone around him
* The decision of Magda Goebbels to kill her children rather than allow them to be evacuated from Berlin as she was convinced that the world after the end of the war would not be a world worth living in

These are just examples of possible topics which would fulfil the scope of this outcome task. You can choose one of these or come up with your own. Please email me and let me know what your topic will be, and which three (or more) texts will be your reference sources. For the purpose of this writing piece, “texts” can be the movie itself, the plot summary, the bunker maps, the foreword from Traudl Junge’s book, the final letter written by Magda Goebbels to her eldest son, the cease-fire order by Hellmuth Weidling, etc. so you have plenty of options. Make sure you choose texts that best suit your chosen topic.

You will have this week and next week to complete this piece of writing. Feel free to email me with drafts so I can provide you with feedback before you finalise your work.

I’m uploading these instructions to the Class 12 Wix page and also emailing them to you individually, just in case. Any questions, please be in touch.

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Talk to you soon!

Elisabeth