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Social and cultural conditions possess an enduring relevance in literary works. P.D. James explores "bridges of law and order over great chasms of both personal and psychological". This interest in character rather than events demonstrates the key interest society of the 1980's had in accepting and seeing "harsh reality". Alfred Hitchcock's film "Rear Window" released in 1954 demonstrates the change in social thinking to the ~~new~~ reality of crime and murder. Agatha Christie's novel plays with the 'cosy' crime fiction genre, and creates a plot that reflects more of a game than reality and toys with the thematic convention of justice. Patricia Cornwell's novel reflects the change of crime fiction as a game or clue puzzle to the idea of criminal profiling demonstrating, like in 'Skull Beneath the Skin' the shift in interest to the psychosis of a crime and the criminal behind it, playing with the idea of open suspect circles. Each text reflects changing values within plot and character, the social and cultural conditions shape this and provide an enduring relevance.

'And Then There Were None' by Agatha Christie plays with the conventions reflective of the

1930's values and changing ideas. Women are a changing convention, and their roles are becoming more expressed and involved in the actions of society. This is demonstrated through Christie's use of female criminals who are murdered alongside male criminals in the name of justice. This changing social value possess an enduring relevance throughout ~~crimes~~ the changing crime fiction genres.

Throughout the plot, social class still dictates the roles of the characters. This demonstrates the enduring relevance of status in the 1930's. Justice Wargrave is dominantly the lead in the search for the murderer until he fakes his own death, and Roger the butler still cooks and serves everyone throughout the growingly desperate plot. These acts demonstrate the importance of social status in the 1930's.

The thematic convention of justice is challenged in Christie's novel as the murderer acts in the name of justice, and the chaos ends with the end of the murders. Christie is exploring the changing role of justice and preserving new ideas

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on the significance of natural justice over lawful justice.

In 'Rear Window' Alfred Hitchcock represents the changing role of women in society.

Lisa, the female lead, plays a major role in collecting evidence for the crippled detective. She is also an independent character who works and supports herself.

The 1950's was the start of feminism and Hitchcock presents this throughout the film with Lisa's character and significance to the case. "I can do just as good a job as any man".

Alfred Hitchcock explores the idea of broadening social class, demonstrated ^{through} ~~the~~ the wealthy Lisa and her relationship with a journalist.

This is a relationship across different social status, and demonstrates the oncoming freedom in society the 1950's begins to push; although ^{uneasily taken} ~~maintained~~ ~~is~~ by characters "a woman of your social standing?" Through social status Hitchcock demonstrates the significance social and cultural conditions have on a text.

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Mitchcock questions the authority of lawful justice through the lack of police intervention and the use of a crippled, amateur detective who is in fact a journalist. Even a private detective doesn't play a role in ~~catching~~ proving a murder "I can't help you here". This reflects the ongoing change in the importance of justice, whilst lawful justice in the 1950's is significant the idea of murder is unrealistic and therefore ~~to~~ to solve murder there must be a body. This reflects the surrealism surrounding social and cultural conditions of the 1950's.

'Skull Beneath the Skin' by P.D. James explores the significance of women and their growing role in society through the female detective Cordelia. Whilst she is still undermined by men, "I may have underestimated you, Cordelia" she is playing a traditionally male role as detective. "I was expecting a no..". This reflects the growing influence of feminism and the "independent women" ~~in~~ of the 1980's. This social change opens Crime fiction to ~~a~~ new genres and values, making the changing role of women reflected in texts

an enduring relevance.

P. D. James explores the breakdown of social class in the text through the partnership of Clarissa and Cordelia. Cordelia becomes the dominant member and instructs Clarissa when in fact she is of technical lower social status. This breakdown of the significance of status is a major change in social and cultural conditions typical of the 1980's. The representation of this in text is reflective of its enduring relevance.

The idea that natural justice is more important than lawful justice is arguable in the text, reflective of the 1980's idea that the justice system is flawed. The death of Simon and the ordering of chaos is reflective of this. 'a terrible emergency, a lost Siamese kitten, a seal plot' is evident of the comical return to order Cordelia experiences when she returns to the mainland and to order, which reflects the value of natural justice, a changing idea, reflective of 1980's social and

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and cultural conditions.

Patricia Cornwell explores the shift from plot to character of the late 1980's and early 1990's. ~~The~~ In the novel Detective Scarpella is subject to ridicule and "loss of femininity" due to her gender and profession. Although her character is "one of our best" in her profession as detective, she is still undermined.

This explores the idea of the growing number of females in "male dominated" professions, but the subjectivity to which they are committed. This is reflective of ~~the~~ shift in social and cultural conditions.

lawful justice is the main dominant convention expressed in this novel and reflects a re-kindled trust society has in the justice system. This is expressed through the professional and police approach to the murders, and the capture of a murderer from which the whole of society is a suspect, "like finding a needle in a haystack". This shift in trust reflects the constant changing of social and cultural

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conditions, making evident that texts are shaped by these and possess an enduring relevance.

Social and cultural conditions are constantly changing and the significance of the impact this has on texts is, to a great extent, evident in the texts I have studied.