**Essay Question:**

**How does a deeper understanding of isolation and identity emerge from considering the parallels between**

**The Catcher in the Ryeand Up in the Air?**

**Example A Range Introduction for the above essay question (160 words):**

A comparative study of J. D. Salinger’s post-war novel The Catcher in the Rye and Jason Reitman’s 21st-century film Up in the Air reveals how texts composed in different contexts can offer variant perspectives on an individual’s experience of alienation and development of personal identity. In The Catcher in the Rye Salinger highlights the yearning for personal connection and subsequent individual development of character, through Holden Caulfield’s alienating post-World War I American experience. Alternatively, Up in the Air transfers this experience of isolation into the global 21st century era, through protagonist Ryan Bingham, who initially seeks to embrace isolation as a means of negotiating the complexities of contemporary life. Yet, as part of his development of self, he re-evaluates his ideology of self-imposed alienation and embraces human connections. Thus, an understanding of isolation and identity emerges as the responder compares Salinger’s 1950s critique of alienating conformist expectations evolve into Reitman’s analysis of alienation as a 21st-century coping mechanism of individuals.

**Example B Range (91 words):**

A comparative study of The Catcher in the Rye and Up in the Air reveals how texts composed in different contexts can offer variant perspectives on an individual’s experience of alienation and identity. The Catcher in the Rye highlights the yearning for personal connection and subsequent individual development of character, reflecting the post-World War I American experience. Alternatively, Up in the Air transfers this experience of isolation into the global 21st century era. Thus, an understanding of isolation and identity emerges as the responder compares Salinger’s 1950s novel with Reitman’s film.

**Example C+ Range (73 words):**

The Catcher in the Rye and Up in the Air reveal how texts composed in different contexts can offer variant perspectives. The Catcher in the Rye highlights issues about isolation and identity, reflecting the post-World War I American experience. Alternatively, Up in the Air transfers this experience of isolation into the global 21st century era. Thus, an understanding of isolation and identity emerges as the responder compares Salinger’s 1950s novel with Reitman’s film.

**Example C Range (65 words):**

The Catcher in the Rye and Up in the Air explore isolation and identity. The Catcher in the Rye highlights issues about isolation and identity, reflecting the post-World War I American experience. Up in the Air transfers this experience of isolation into the global 21st century era. Thus, an understanding of isolation and identity emerges as the responder compares Salinger’s 1950s novel with Reitman’s film.