



Examiners' Report June 2011

GCSE English Literature 5ET1F 01





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Introduction

The Question Paper -

Overview of Assessment:

- 1. The Examination lasts 1hr and 45mns 45 minutes for each section.
- 2. The total number of marks available is 80.

The questions on this paper have been designed to enable candidates to show what they can achieve in relation to a detailed study of a text.

Study of two prose texts:

- one text from the Literary Heritage (4 part question) no choice.
- one text from Different Cultures (essay) choice of two questions.

Four-part question:

Linked to a short extract.

The extract came from a significant section of the text: approximately 300-350 words in length.

Students selected relevant material focused on the key words of the questions, clearly expressing relevant points and providing evidence from the text. (part b and part c)

Students were also expected to relate to the whole text. (part a and part d)

Foundation Tier 4 part question focused on key events, character, language and theme both within and outside the extract.

[a] This was often the best answered, the differentiator being the interpretation of the word "key". This involved candidates' making a fairly sophisticated judgement and this proved to be beyond many, who simply wrote down everything they could remember about the plot. Range of marks was 0 - 10, with many answers around 5/6 out of ten. Lots of time wasted when bulletpointed sentences would have sufficed.

[b] This was often the weakest, with very few references/comparisons to the Decalogue which I would have thought to be a good starting point in the classroom. Many answers referred only to layout, font and spacing issues. Very few of the better students referred at all to the simplicity and total un-ambiguity of the language, whereby the commandments could only be subverted by qualification, alteration and addition.

[c] Most managed a few points here: Snowball's cleverness, skill at writing, his support for the less literate animals and his partnership with Napoleon and Squealer were the most often cited. Almost no-one picked up the disquieting hint of conspiracy by the pigs in learning to read and write, and evolving Old Major's dream into the system of Animalism – and doing so in secret. This surely foreshadows later and more sinister conspiracies. The average mark here was around 3 or 4.

[d] Few candidates actually managed to answer this question accurately by recounting a single incident [the purges, the beds, Napoleon's hangover] which hinged on one of the seven commandments. Considerable benefit of doubt had to be applied to some answers, and many scored poorly at 3 or 4.

Part a)

A perfect example of misuse of time when sentenced bullet points would have sufficed.

la. In the extract of animal farm was many events. This included; there an Reptora, of old major, where The ne The described what he wanted to happen and after his death as before that it was Ne Knew very soon. Old Prize middle The white mapr meeting, which Called was to the animals on the tarm OF. What he Saw in his dream had the Previous ne on night 010 Mapis Speech Pointed he Canrodes Unite Saud have neard as about the strange dream that already night But last the unl later. I have something else to dream do not think, comrades, that MAXA. be with you for SY vall manu months teel longer, and Defore de XXXXXXX nu on stonyou duty to pass such windom CD. have acquired. Secondly it was the death of old major as he died in his sleep the adopte after he spoke his speech. A the animals song created around had the by old major to show that made ready to be fighting in the revelution are Sooner on those is the take over of

Napoteon? and the pigs snowball and squealer. As they took charge they began the rebellion and made the battle of the cousted success All, especially with the help of snowball. Milk and apples for the animals started going missing as the pigs had become worse and eatentnem as Napoleon admitted to all the animals. I was soon that tessie the dog had he puppies as she was preanant, but as she had them Napoleon took them away from her and trained them to be feirce and his body hards soon & after it binishing of the ball and here as they 'betray' the the Was for execution animals on animal farm and blaming for the windmill to be destrayed (what the animal were when building by snowball being the culpret not least the Pig betrayling Boser-Last but Magne Ethe commandments the poor old ultered pgs as they all broke them 6y The George orwell. b. to The righter uses the 7 command-ments like a religion that they Must follow, they are said and to be set out to make the commandments to be the way to a good like and massene happiness also freedom. the malin ones that and Ro shall drink alconol; freedom Shaw religion No animal Seven commandments is all animals are equal in the Seviers this one there is also one that sounds like its a human right as Says in the Declaration all people are equical it.

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as in you should judge whether its their race, age, disability But as you read the back you find that ect the rules are broken by the Pigs and if they do/ or break them it's fine, any other animal does that, they are either banished from the farm or murchered. C. With the character snow bell you learn that he is strong willed and can help with all dougt problems, and she solve them all with out a that George arwell describes him as one of the main followers of Napoleon, until he seemingly berray the animals, and then A for every event that goes novell wrong in the book Napoleon in known to blame obviously show ball as he is realars of how friendly, nice, Strong and competives snow Dall is so Napoleon doesn't like it, and makes up something as "snowball, hes the reason why animals get hurt, its him hes the trater?" d. The 7 command ments as they had been cultured were more stricked for the other anunded on the form, but the Pigs as they were the ones whe kept twisting reasons why they had changed by saying that they 'haven't' been changed its just the animals who haven't paid attention to them. George orwell the has written the commandments like a rebellion check list but in way animals would think of it. So for example "No animell should wear clothes' this could be refluring the the human rebellion (russion revolution) by to saying that anyone seen wearing no army uniform

russian revolution the in. could army Expelled Fron told off abing amy Even Killed but hinen its ultured 17 8 Says theit they Wear ciches this Could COL 6 Calle havec. So really George Orwell nade has as he minice of what was happening thes book 0 added animals to make wrote the and book it more interesting.



Part b) Candidate has made comments about events outside the extract (no credit).



Timing is key to gaining full marks. Candidates need to highlight key words such as *in the extract* in order to avoid costly mistakes.

Four-part question:

Linked to a short extract.

The extract came from a significant section of the text: approximately 300-350 words in length.

Students selected relevant material focused on the key words of the questions, clearly expressing relevant points and providing evidence from the text. (part b and part c)

Students were also expected to relate to the whole text. (part a and part d)

Foundation Tier 4 part question focused on key events, character, language and theme both within and outside the extract.

[a] See 1[a] above

[b] This was often poorly answered, and even the better answers referred only to the overtly dark language: very few, for instance, identified Utterson's dream as a nightmare. But there were enough references to the trodden-down child and the faceless figure for most candidates to score 3 or 4 marks.

[c] No-one really drew attention to Utterson's conflicted state, the tension between his intellectual curiosity and his morbid imagination [this is foundation tier after all] but this question was often weakly answered. References to his determination to find out what was going on, and how his powerful curiosity motivated him were often as much as candidates could manage.

[d] Most candidates chose either the *Carew Murder Case* or the really dark part of this book, when Jekyll's transformation starts to occur spontaneously but the latter were in a minority.

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Foundation Tier 4 part question focused on key events, character, language and theme both within and outside the extract.

[a] See 1 [a] above

[b] Again candidates proved to be comfortable with a narrative approach plus simple comment. Most referred to the sudden change of tone when Miss Stapleton speaks, and the equally sudden shift from urgent warning to small talk of orchid collecting as her brother approached. References to language – *strange apparition, her eyes blazed, get away from this place at all costs* – were rare. Few candidates pointed out the contrast between Stapleton's words and his manner.

[c] This was rather better answered, with many candidates drawing an able contrast between her appearance and her dual manners – one for Dr Watson who she assumed to be Baskerville, and the other in the presence of her brother. One of the best answered sections.

[d] Surprisingly, no-one referred at all to the Baskerville legend, the baying of the hound at night on the moor, or the killing of Selden. A poorly answered question on the whole, with many relying on the theft of Baskerville's boots or the message made from cut up newsprint.

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Foundation Tier 4 part question focused on key events, character, language and theme both within and outside the extract.

The responses seen dealt with each section reasonably well, using the evidence in the extract to their benefit.

Question 5

Four-part question:

Linked to a short extract.

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Students selected relevant material focused on the key words of the questions, clearly expressing relevant points and providing evidence from the text. (part b and part c)

Students were also expected to relate to the whole text. (part a and part d)

Foundation Tier 4 part question focused on key events, character, language and theme both within and outside the extract.

The responses dealt with each section reasonably well, using the evidence in the extract to their benefit. Most were able to secure good marks.

Four-part question:

Linked to a short extract.

The extract came from a significant section of the text: approximately 300-350 words in length.

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Foundation Tier 4 part question focused on key events, character, language and theme both within and outside the extract.

The responses seen were often narrative but supported with relevant textual support.

Question 7

The Essay

1. Character or theme

2. Clean copies of the texts may be used in the examination

3. After the question candidates are given this instruction: *In your answer you* **must** *consider:* followed by **three** bullet points – the first bullet addresses AO1: `responses to the novel' (16 marks) the second & third bullets address AO4: `the novel's context' (24 marks).

It is important the candidates are made aware of the importance of responding to these three bullets within their answer. Although candidates may answer the bullets separately, it is not necessary that they do so.

4. The essay was assessed for Quality of Written Communication.

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It is important the candidates are made aware of the importance of responding to these three bullets within their answer. Although candidates may answer the bullets separately, it is not necessary that they do so.

4. The essay was assessed for Quality of Written Communication.

The responses were often narrative but supported with relevant textual support.

Question 9

The Essay

- 1. Character or theme
- 2. Clean copies of the texts may be used in the examination

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The Essay

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The responses seen were often narrative but supported with relevant textual support.

Question 11

The Essay

- 1. Character or theme
- 2. Clean copies of the texts may be used in the examination

Responses to this question were fairly secure, using the bullet points intelligently to structure the essay. At this level candidates were stronger at narrative than at context, but the centrality of Francis and Nicole's story to the book was clearly brought out.

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It is important the candidates are made aware of the importance of responding to these three bullets within their answer. Although candidates may answer the bullets separately, it is not necessary that they do so.

4. The essay was assessed for Quality of Written Communication

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- 2. Clean copies of the texts may be used in the examination

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4. The essay was assessed for Quality of Written Communication.

Some responses noted the major theme of the novel- that heroism can only really be valued when we find out what motivates our heroes. Francis won a medal for trying to take the coward's way out, and Larry's heroism is qualified by his urge to dominate and subdue. To that extent heroism is a flaw in both of them: but Francis' killing of LaSalle makes amends for both of these to an extent. LaSalle is punished for his crime, and Francis will be punished for punishing LaSalle.

The Essay

- 1. Character or theme
- 2. Clean copies of the texts may be used in the examination

3. After the question candidates are given this instruction: *In your answer you* **must** *consider:* followed by **three** bullet points – the first bullet addresses AO1: `responses to the novel' (16 marks) the second & third bullets address AO4: `the novel's context' (24 marks).

It is important the candidates are made aware of the importance of responding to these three bullets within their answer. Although candidates may answer the bullets separately, it is not necessary that they do so.

4. The essay was assessed for Quality of Written Communication.

This question on *Of Mice and Men* was very popular and there was a wide range of responses which exemplified the positive engagement students have with this text. Many candidates showed a sound awareness of the importance of Crooks in the context of the novel, supported with appropriate references to the text. Most candidates used the bullet points to structure their responses and there were many sound responses to the incident involving Crooks with Lennie, Candy and Curley's wife. Candidates were rewarded for valid comments on the importance of Curley's wife humiliation of Crooks and his response. Many candidates scored highly in responding to the second and third bullets by explaining the importance on Crooks in terms of his treatment leading to his isolation, loneliness and frustration; the most successful answers went on to comment on how his exclusion and marginalisation in the context of life on the ranch was a reflection of the times in which the novel was set.

Response is focused but lacks development.

the importance of crooks is that he has en 150/ated from everyone else Then 1en co (nto (Mr) indu ano they talks mm George (eti Prences uncters TOOK S big alarm dockr, a Sinele-bau

Shot ain and he buso has booked too; a Hered dictionary and a mauled OPU alifornia Ciu tor (1 haw CLBC. notice ranch P ba no leave him they 301 how backarevner who talk the ennie



Candidate needs to avoid using lengthy quotations; these need to be succinct and embedded in the response.



Candidate MUST follow bullet points in order to gain high marks for Assessment Objective 4. (As shown in this response)

The Essay

- 1. Character or theme
- 2. Clean copies of the texts may be used in the examination

3. After the question candidates are given this instruction: *In your answer you* **must** *consider:* followed by **three** bullet points – the first bullet addresses AO1: 'responses to the novel' (16 marks) the second & third bullets address AO4: 'the novel's context' (24 marks).

It is important the candidates are made aware of the importance of responding to these three bullets within their answer. Although candidates may answer the bullets separately, it is not necessary that they do so.

4. The essay was assessed for Quality of Written Communication.

This was another popular question that again exemplified the positive engagement students have with *Of Mice and Men*. Although there was a full range of responses, many were weakened by offering mainly narrative accounts of characters' dreams, often Lennie and George's, with limited accompanying commentary. The second bullet asked candidates to give the reasons for characters' dreams, but when given these were often limited and undeveloped. Many sound answers commented on the importance of dreams by referring to the dreams of others, besides Lennie and George, such as Curley's wife, Crooks and Candy showing how dreams were important in helping individuals survive the hardships of life in and around the ranch during those difficult times.

Response follows all of the bulletpoints. The candidate meets the criteria expected for both Assessment Objectives.

learns play a vory important roll in the norbit. madas have than. The main Manu the NOVAL NAVE a diparm. George 10 onnio. Ro the Nodor first hoar the dream Blark of the novel, when they do butter AD . George the small, sharpe tertuid cleaver blow , uses the story to compart Lanne. Lance is Stronge man, almost Libo a kid trapad in Mains the fall body. They have a droom as it is the only thay have to look convord to. 184 long poople in the Great depreson in dimerca had diagons. I KNOW Way woorn't going to come true. However actor

and etage in the nature when George and Lennie are discussing the diam and Corres Condy the old swamper over hours. At first George didnt want

him to know about it, but condy mentions his get some monoy sould up in the bank. He also says he knows a guy salling a plat of land, which matches the disorption of this diam This get all thise or them excited, when it almost promos a waitty. But eadly at the ard on the novel war we have the disam for the art time in the Davel we hear it the lat. Right barar Google kills Lonne. When Curley the Old swamper and out the novel works.

We know that drame waar very poorlar, in them times as a crooks eque, They come, an' they are give on an' overy damp one or 'eme got a 1,446 parce opt and in his head. This the could be because on the Propa gonda or the American dream, if you come to America onything is possible. But heally it is a configge ite, traping more and more people in its tankey.

Goorgo and Lonne over the only chowerkes with a dream, possible one of the longyset changer in the story, Curleys Wile has one. One mentions a few times, that she wanted and gould have been a film star, and that she know a main which gould of made nor a star. But soon after the roads

that all that was descraped upon the irlay, Also har diram came to a 100%. aswell hor divam diving, the 01001 Goorge and Lonnies dilam to LMOH CNOOHER onnie other wiee he TOCLOD linchmob. (0)O. 100 diam OP 60 (QVSD 00 0 UNIS as 200W Jantino 5411 CINOSOC 10 0,11



Explanation is apt and generally sound. Response has been sufficiently developed to gain the highest of marks in Band 4 for both Assessment Objectives.



Candidate mostly uses apt quotations; these are embedded in the response. Mostly sound reference to context. Explanation of theme of dreams shows generally sound understanding.

The Essay

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It is important the candidates are made aware of the importance of responding to these three bullets within their answer. Although candidates may answer the bullets separately, it is not necessary that they do so.

4. The essay was assessed for Quality of Written Communication.

The responses seen were often narrative but supported with relevant textual support.

Question 16

The Essay

1. Character or theme

2. Clean copies of the texts may be used in the examination

3. After the question candidates are given this instruction: *In your answer you* **must** *consider:* followed by **three** bullet points – the first bullet addresses AO1: 'responses to the novel' (16 marks) the second & third bullets address AO4: 'the novel's context' (24 marks).

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Question 18

The Essay

- 1. Character or theme
- 2. Clean copies of the texts may be used in the examination

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Question 20

The Essay

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It is important the candidates are made aware of the importance of responding to these three bullets within their answer. Although candidates may answer the bullets separately, it is not necessary that they do so.

4. The essay was assessed for Quality of Written Communication.

Summary

Unsurprisingly, candidates opted for the familiar texts of *Animal Farm* from Section A: Literary Heritage and *Of Mice and Men* from Section B: Different Cultures and Traditions. However, there was plenty of diversity considering this was the first series. *Felicia's Journey* was the least favourable from 'Literary Heritage' and *Riding the Black Cockatoo* from 'Different Cultures and Traditions'.

It was evident that the small number of 'pilot' centres were better prepared for this paper, candidate answers showed focus, timing was rarely a problem and there was evidence of a successful learning style.

For the rest, most notable, part a – **leading up to**, **following on from**, much time was wasted: detailed information, over 2 pages, including quotations.

Most candidates fitted the trend were the higher marks were achieved in parts a) and c). Parts b) and d) are thematic and require more analytical skill.

More candidates, in Section A, for the four-part type question, gained higher marks. These candidates' responses were focused and mature, interesting and developed; examiners noted these candidates had clearly engaged with the texts.

It was quite alarming how many poor essay responses there were, in comparison, to Section A. Essays often demonstrated a weak structure and a lack of focus, evident of a poor learning style. Centres had prepared candidates for Section A (to be congratulated, for responses on the whole were doing more than was expected) and not put as much effort into Section B.

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