

GCSE English Literature  
5ET1H/01

Rani and Sukh  
Higher Tier

The purpose of this pack is to provide centres with the question paper, mark scheme and a set of exemplar materials with commentaries.

The individual documents can be found on our website at [www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com)

Included in this pack:

- Question and extract from Summer 2012 Paper
- Marked scripts with the mark and band
- Examiner commentary and mark scheme

## Rani and Sukh – Higher Tier

\*16 In what ways are family relationships significant in the novel?

You **must** consider the context of the novel.

Use **evidence** to support your answer.

(Total for Question 16 = 40 marks)

### Script 1

24 marks

AO1 – Band 3 – 10 marks

AO4 – Band 3 – 14 marks

In the novel family relationships are explored through the perspective of the feud and how it affects the two families involved, the Sandhu and the Bains who are caught in a conflict stretching back to 1960's Punjab although it has moved with them to Leicester. The feud is particularly important because through it we see how family loyalty can lead to violence, this is particularly evident when violence erupts at a football match between the two families (p.203-205). Sukh's cousin Ranjit says: 'This is our business, Sukh. Bains business.' ~~He~~ ~~look~~ and Sukh notes that 'the look in his eyes challenged Sukh to show where his loyalties lay' which suggests that the two families are so focused on their <sup>side of the</sup> feud they refuse to acknowledge the other, something that is further evidenced by Divy's harsh reply to Sukh saying he hasn't got anything against him of 'You're a fucking Bains. That's enough'. The profanity increases the harshness of this and makes it seem wild and almost animalistic ~~as~~ as though Divy's hatred has reduced him to an animal. Because we see this scene through the eyes of Sukh who is dragged in against his will and

because he <sup>is</sup> together with Rani Rai shows ~~us~~ the negative impact of the feud; ~~and~~ the focus it brings to siding with your own family blinding you to the other point of view because Sukh, knowing and loving Rani despite being on the other side of the feud is able to see beyond this ~~at~~ but no one else is able to. The feud in the novel between the two families

echoes that of the one in William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet which has similar negative consequences. ~~and~~ References and allusions to the famous ~~tragedy~~ tragedy are woven throughout throughout the novel by Rai but nowhere is it more clear than in the Feud. The Montagues and Capulets are similarly blinded by family loyalty and they are similarly unable to view the other side of anything but an enemy. By using a feud similar to the one in Romeo and Juliet Rai is foreshadowing a similar tragedy for Rani and Sukh as that which Romeo and Juliet suffer due to the feud dividing their families and this gives the reader a hint of things to come in the novel.

Family relationships are also important in the novel because of the way they are ~~dictated~~ dictated by <sup>Punjabi</sup> culture, particularly Rani struggles against how her family expect her to behave in accordance with their traditional cultural values such as arranged marriages and her rebellion against this by entering a relationship with Sukh secretly shows how these family relationships can be broken up by culture. <sup>on pages 266-267</sup> ~~When this is discovered~~ When this is discovered we witness this happening between Rani and her father Mohinder as he reacts to her perceived betrayal, saying 'I don't have a daughter now. Your brothers will decide what happens to you' and allowing her brothers to treat her horrifically and with violence without protest because he thinks she has betrayed his cultural values and from this we get the impression that protecting your honour or izzat is more important than family relationships. We also get the sense that these shared cultural values, rather than bringing Rani's family closer together have actually isolated and restricted them because they are in accordance to their cultural rules rather than familial bonds or love. This idea of izzat and the consequences of betraying it are not just something Rai has made up in the novel they are real life concepts which have resulted in real life conflicts and even honour killings where Fathers

or brothers have murdered their daughters or their partners for betraying these cultural values and this kind of dire response is not just seen through how Dixy and Gurdip treat Rani but how Billah and Sukh both eventually end up 'paying' for their staining of family honour. It could be that Rai is criticizing these traditions as leading only to pain and violence as certainly in the novel these concepts do lead to nothing but destroyed families and deaths in the end.

Another significance of family in the novel is ~~directly referenced~~ ~~how the younger generation react~~ the contrast between Sukh's more liberal, open family and Rani's traditional, restrictive one and how it affects their respective actions and characters. Rani herself notes how controlled her home life is, saying 'to call my homelife restrictive is not even halfway to the truth' thus we see how much more fearful she is because she can expect much more dire consequences than Sukh if her family finds out and the weight of their secret relationship is much more heavy on her. Sukh's family provides a dictionary for this homelife, they are ~~is~~ much more relaxed and are later shown as much more accepting, particularly when Rani reveals her pregnancy.

**Examiner summary:** *This is a sustained response which shows thorough understanding of the theme of family relationships and the context of the novel. It is supported with relevant textual detail.*

**Band this response achieves in the mark schemes:**

**AO1**

3	8-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustained responses to text supported by relevant textual reference.</li><li>• Selection and evaluation of textual detail show thorough understanding of theme/ideas.</li></ul>
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**AO4**

3	11-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustained reference to context supported by relevant textual reference.</li><li>• Explanation of importance of theme/idea shows thorough understanding.</li></ul> <p>*Sentences are appropriately structured, with sustained control of expression and meaning with thorough control of the full range of punctuation devices. Spelling is almost always accurate, with occasional errors.</p>
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**To move up to the next bands:** This response needs to develop the points made about the theme of family relationships and support these points with evidence from the text.

## Script 2

40 marks

AO1 – Band 5 – 16 marks

AO4 – Band 5 – 24 marks

The family relationships portrayed in the novel, between within the British Punjabi families, are largely significant in conveying the close ties that these families have with their culture, and religion. Perhaps the most obvious, is the way in which Rai's ~~to~~ Parents insist on clinging to ~~to~~ tradition, after restricting her role ~~to~~ in the family to tasks such as "making tea", ~~making~~ This in turn, provokes a resentment within her, that weakens her "bond" with her family, as she is left wishing her parents were the "liberal dream" she ~~wanted~~ "wanted them to be". It is Rai's weak relations with her family, that allow her to go against the "traditional values" of Punjabi culture, and date Sukh. ~~to~~ However, the fear of

~~being~~ ~~part~~ of her family is "constantly" present, which may be Rai's way of showing that ~~family relations~~ families who put culture before the happiness of family members, could be creating ~~toxic~~ <sup>family</sup> relationships that are built on "fear," rather than "love" and "affection".

Looking more deeply into the matter, ~~to~~ we find that Rai's relationship with certain members of her family are actually much more complex, ~~are~~ More specifically with her father, Rai feels "guilty" ~~to~~ for having her relationship with Sukh, fearing that she ~~to~~ has "let him down". This is Rai's way of unveiling a deeper, internal conflict that is created within Rai, and perhaps British Punjabi teenagers in general; ~~to~~ the conflict between maintaining "family pride" and pleasing ~~the~~ <sup>her</sup> family.

and the temptation to adapt to the western culture around her, such as being able "to go out" and "date boys". It is Ravi's failure to follow her cultural beliefs about love and relationships, that leaves her ~~with "it"~~ both afraid of her family, and guilty.

~~On the other hand~~ The family relationships ~~are~~ in the novel also ~~are~~ unmarks the generational differences - not just in Ravi's family but ~~are~~ also in Sukh's family. Ravi comments on her disdain ~~of~~ for "interfering old hags" ~~and~~, and this goes to show how the relationships between the parents and the children are often conflictual, as the older people "grew up in the Punjab", and are more desperate to cling to the "old traditions". On the other hand, Sukh's parents accept that they "are now British", and refuse to allow Ravi and Sukh's relationship "to destroy our [their] family"; interestingly, Ravi portrays Sukh's relationship with his parents as much more reasonable and civil, which could be a commentary on how ~~British~~ older members of British Punjabi families (who refuse to ~~of~~ adapt to western culture, are in fact just creating a "barrier" between them and their children, "weakening the family".

Bali Rai includes the relationship between Nat and her sister Jasmine, to draw parallels between the two culturally different families (in particular, Ravi's family). Nat "told Jasmine" about Ravi's pregnancy, knowing ~~how~~ what an important "secret" it is, showing that there is a real trust between the two sisters; something we fail to see between Ravi and her brothers. Furthermore, Jasmine, like Nat,

has also "had a friend who has been through it [pregnancy]", ~~it~~ revealing a report of events, and the willingness that Jasmine has to support and guide her sister in these situations, through her own experience. On the other hand, Rai never receives guidance from her ~~po~~ family; just ~~thats~~ ~~the~~ instructions, and threats from her brother and father to "throw her ~~own~~ [Rai] out on the streets like a dog", if she should break the culturally acceptable rules. The fact that Rai has made this parallel, ~~conveys~~ conveys perhaps his own belief, that although traditional Punjabi families believe in "family pride" and "honor", the true meaning ~~of~~ of family lies with families who do not ~~force~~ "force" ~~but~~ "religion or culture" on each other. Furthermore, ~~this~~ this makes a triple parallel with Sukh and Pomy's relationship, ~~as~~ as Pomy trusts Sukh with "the keys to her flat" and "trusts him". This supports the view that Punjabi families ~~with~~ who relax their laws on culture, ~~are~~ also have better family ties and bonds. ~~Rai~~ Rai is not critical of the ~~most~~ important precedence that culture and tradition can have over family love.

#### Examiner summary:

*This is a convincing and perceptive response which is maturely expressed. There is perceptive understanding of both the theme of family relationships and the context of the novel. The points are supported with sustained, detailed, relevant textual reference.*

#### Band this response achieves in the mark schemes:

##### AO1

5	14-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convincing responses to text supported by sustained relevant textual reference.</li> <li>• Selection and evaluation of textual detail show perceptive understanding of theme/ideas.</li> </ul>
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##### AO4

5	21-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convincing reference to context supported by sustained relevant textual reference.</li> <li>• Explanation of importance of theme/idea shows perceptive understanding.</li> </ul> <p>*Sentences are convincingly structured, with sophisticated control of expression and meaning with precise control of the full range of punctuation devices. Spelling is consistently accurate.</p>
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This response receives full marks.