

GCSE English
5EH2F/01

Merchant of Venice
Foundation 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

Included in this pack:

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

The Merchant of Venice

Extract taken from Act 1, Scene 1.

Antonio: Is that anything now?

Bassanio: Gratiano speaks an infinite deal of nothing – more than any man in all Venice; his reasons are as two grains of wheat hid in two bushels of chaff: you shall seek all day ere you find them, and when you have them, they are not worth the search.

Antonio: Well, tell me now what lady is the same
To whom you swore a secret pilgrimage,
That you to-day promised to tell me of.

Bassanio: 'T not unknown to you, Antonio,
How much I have disabled mine estate
By something showing a more swelling port
Than my faint means would grant continuance;
Nor do I now make moan to be abridged
From such a noble rate, but my chief care
Is to come fairly off from the great debts
Wherein my time, something too prodigal,
Hath left me gag'd. To you Antonio
I owe the most in money and in love,
And from your love I have a warranty
To unburden all my plots and purposes
How to get clear of all the debts I owe.

Antonio: I pray you, good Bassanio, let me know it,
And if it stand, as you yourself still do,
Within the eye of honour, be assured
My purse, my person, my extremest means
Lie all unlocked to your occasions.

Bassanio: In my school-days, when I had lost one shaft,
I shot his fellow of the self-same flight
The self-same way, with more advised watch,
To find the other forth, and by adventuring both,
I oft found both; I urge this childhood proof
Because what follows is pure innocence.
I owe you much, and, like a wilful youth,
That which I owe is lost,

Part A

(a) From the extract, what do you learn about the character of Bassanio?

Use evidence from the extract to support your answer.

(7)

Script 1 response to part a)

Band 3 – 7 marks

Relevant point with example and explanation

a) From this extract we learn that Bassanio is a young man who is greatly in debt to Antonio. He has squandered money that Antonio has lent him in the parts we know then as he says "I not unknown to you, Antonio. How much I have debauched ~~my~~ mine estate" this means that he is bankrupt or penniless. We can tell this from the word "debauched" which means broken or wasted.

We know Bassanio is already in debt to Antonio as he says "To you Antonio I owe the most in money and in love," this tells us he owes Antonio not only money but his love and respect as Antonio has been generous to him in the past.

Bassanio has wasted money in the past in his youth, for he says "In my school days, when I lost one shift, I shot his fellows of the same night. The self same way" his school days refer to his youth and his shift his money. He goes on to say "with more advanced watch, to find the ^{both} other -

Relevant points with example and explanation

(Section A continued) I oft found both " this means he wanted money on numerous occasions hoping to make back what he lost. This demonstrates his immature and reckless behaviour as he often wanted money in the same way even when it was not his own.

Examples from the extract (above) used to make relevant point and explanation

Examiner summary:

The answer identifies: 'greatly in debt', 'squandered money', 'already in debt to Antonio', and his 'love and respect' for Antonio. The candidate also identifies 'immature and reckless'. There are clear references to the extract to support these interpretations.

Band this answer achieves in the mark scheme:

3	6-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Generally sound or sound understanding of the character.• Clear reference to the extract to support response.
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To achieve a higher mark: this response has achieved maximum marks.

Part (b)

(b) Using your understanding of the extract, explain how the following lines might be performed.

(7)

Antonio Is that anything now?

Bassanio Gratiano speaks an infinite deal of nothing – more than any man in all Venice. His reasons are of two grains of wheat hid in two bushels of chaff: you shall seek all day ere you find them, and when you have them they are not worth the search.

Antonio Well, tell me now what lady is the same
To whom you swore a secret pilgrimage,
That you today promised to tell me of.

You may consider the following in your answer:

- actions
- positioning
- movement
- voice
- gesture
- facial expression.

Script 1 response to part b)

Band 3 – 7 marks

b) These scenes would be acted in a serious way.
Antonio would use a quizzical tone of voice when he asks Bassanio about both Gratiano meaning and about the lady. Bassanio would be smiling and ~~enjoying~~ whilst talking about Gratiano. He would exscentuate his ~~words~~ voice when saying his first line.

Reference to the specific lines, with valid facial expressions and voice

Reference to the specific lines, with valid positioning and linked to character

Antonio would be standing, showing his more mature manner and the fact he is in control as he is asking the questions. Bermano would sit close by with raised arm to accentuate his views on Gratiano. But when asked of portia become more subdued and serious with a hint of melancholy even melancholy in his eyes.

Antonio would walk over to Bermano putting his hand on his shoulder when talking about Portia, this would show his maturity and age and Bermano unmovingly as he is asking him like he is a child.

Link between the performance features, the lines and the reasons

Reference to the specific part of the extract, with valid positioning, gestures and voice. Linked to characters feelings

Examiner summary:

The candidate has visualised the scene and offers something on the how and the why with references to the text e.g. 'putting his hand on his shoulders.. this would show'. There is sound understanding of the effectiveness of performance.

Band this answer achieves in the mark scheme:

3	6-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally sound or sound understanding of effectiveness of performance techniques • Clear reference to the lines from the extract to support response.
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To achieve a higher mark: this response has achieved maximum marks.

Part (c)

(c) In the extract, Bassanio mentions money.

Comment on the importance of money in **one other** part of the play.

(10)

Script 1 response to part c)

Band 3 – 8 marks

Identification of 'one other part' of the play

c) The topic of money appears several times in the play. Most importantly in act four scene one. The trial scene. Shylock is offered six thousand ducats to release Antonio from the bond, twice ~~more~~ the debt Antonio owes. Shylock refuses wanting only "the due justice of the bond" saying if not awarded by the court of Venice the law is pointless and weak.

Details of the selected scene with a quotation

Reference to the importance of money as a theme

Shylock is vengeful believing that the pound of Antonio's flesh will repay all the injustice done to him by Christians. Portia comes onto

Further details of the selected scene

the court dressed as a man, she uses the name Belaria pretending to be a Roman doctor. She tells Shylock that Antonio will die if Shylock takes the bond offering him the money once more, but she Shylock refuses.

Further details of the selected scene

Just before the bond is about to be paid
Portia stops the proceedings explaining that if Antonio
dies → Shylock will be put to death for murder, for other
more as he has attempted to murder a Venetian
his money will go to Antonio and the state.
Antonio doesn't want his money but instead makes
Shylock become Christian and leave all money to Jessica.

Reference to the importance of money

Examiner summary:

The candidate has clearly identified the selected 'one other part' of the play, and is able to provide a lot of detail, including a quotation. There is some comment on the theme 'repay all the injustice', 'make Shylock become a Christian'.

Band this answer achieves in the mark scheme:

3	8-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Generally sound or sound understanding of theme and its importance• Clear reference to one other part of the play to support response.
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To achieve a higher mark: this response needs more detailed reference to the selected scene in order to support the comments on the importance of the theme of money.