

GCSE English  
5EH2H/01

Heroes  
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

Finally, on the fourth day, I saw her emerging from the hallway on to the piazza on the second floor.

She did not move away as I came into the yard.

'Nicole,' I called.

She saw me, frowned, drew back a step, then paused, as if waiting for me to approach . . .

'Nicole,' my voice breaking, not like the days of my shyness with her but because my heart was so full it destroyed her name as I spoke it.

Her eyes met mine. She didn't say anything for a long moment and when she finally spoke, her voice was harsh. 'You were there all the time,' she said.

I couldn't reply, could find no words to utter in my defence. Because I had no defence.

'You didn't do anything.'

The accusation in her voice was worse than the harshness.

'I know.' I wasn't sure whether I spoke those words or only thought them.

'You knew what he was doing, didn't you?'

My head so heavy, pounding with blood, that I could barely nod in agreement.

Leaning against the banister, she cried:

'Why didn't you do something? Tell him to stop. Run for help. Anything.'

'I'm sorry,' I said, knowing how pitiful those words must sound to her.

She shook her head, turning away, and I couldn't afford to let her go.

'Are you . . .' I began to ask but hesitated as she turned back and looked at me again. What word could I use? Are you hurt? Torn apart?

'Are you all right?' I asked.

'No, I'm not all right,' she answered, anger flashing in her eyes. 'I hurt. I hurt all over.'

## Question part (a)

(a) Explain how the writer presents the character of Nicole in the extract.

Use **evidence** from the extract to support your answer.

(7)

## Script 1 response to part a)

### Band 2 – 3 marks

a) The writer presents Nicole in the extract as a scared, angry young girl. Nicole seems nervous to approach Francis and not sure what to do. In the text it says 'she saw me, frowned, drew back a step, then paused as if waiting for me to approach.' This shows that Nicole was nervous around Francis and that it was awkward between them after having years of being in love with each other. ✖

Nicole's voice 'was harsh' this shows that she was angry with Francis and she also says 'You didn't do anything' as if she's disappointed in him for not helping her. There is also a lot of questioning happening. Nicole is asking Francis questions like 'Why didn't you do anything?' and 'You knew what he was doing, didn't you?'. This shows that Nicole is confused and doesn't understand why he just watched her being raped.

On the other hand though Nicole still has feelings for Francis because in the text it says 'Her eyes met mine'. Which means

Valid supported points with explanation

Valid supported points with explanation

Valid supported points with explanation

(Section B continued) She still loves him because she can look him in the eye.

In conclusion I think the writer presents Nicole as a confused, upset girl who does not know what to do.

### Examiner summary:

*Nicole is 'scared', 'angry', 'nervous' and 'confused'. These points are supported with reference to the extract. The candidate also shows understanding of Nicole being 'disappointed' in Francis and yet 'still has feelings for Francis'. There is enough to lift this answer just out of Band 1.*

### Band this answer achieves in the mark scheme:

2	3-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thorough understanding of the character.</li><li>• Sustained reference to the extract to support response.</li></ul>
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### To achieve a higher mark:

This response needs to offer more evidence of the candidate's understanding of the character as the examples offered here, although well-supported, are fairly straightforward and literal interpretations of the quotations.

Script 2 response to part (a)

Band 2 – 5 marks

a) In the extract the writer, Robert Cormier, portrays Nicole to be a very emotional character. In saying 'on the fourth day I saw her emerging' it suggests that after the event her confidence had been knocked and she wasn't sure if she was quite ready to face the outside world again yet. ~~At first~~

Valid points although support is not convincing

At first it would appear that Nicole didn't notice Francis as when he calls 'Nicole' she draws back a step meaning that she is startled and would be comfortable in retreating back to the safety of her home. However she pauses. This action shows bravery and suggest that Nicole is quite a strong character.

Valid supported points. Thorough understanding

When Francis speaks for a second

(Section B continued) time, calling her name again she pauses again but this time for thought. At this point she is holding Francis's eyes meaning her thoughts are directed at him. Nicole spoke after a long moment and her words were harsh. This give me ~~the~~ the impression that she is has strong beliefs and emotions and she is struggling to control them. Also towards the end of the extract the accusation and harshness in her voice becomes anger. This anger, I feel Francis finds ~~intimidating~~ intimidating and he leaves the scene upset.

Valid supported points. Thorough understanding

Valid supported points. Thorough understanding

**Examiner summary:**

*This response begins with points that Nicole is 'emotional' and her 'confidence has been knocked'. These points are not convincingly supported however. The response is more successful in the second paragraph; she is 'comfortable in retreating' but she 'shows bravery'. This shows a thorough understanding. The candidate offers some valid interpretations in the final paragraph (that Nicole is struggling to control her emotions). The response offers sustained reference to the extract, although there is little direct quotation.*

**Band this answer achieves in the mark scheme:**

2	3-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thorough understanding of the character.</li> <li>• Sustained reference to the extract to support response.</li> </ul>
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**To achieve a higher mark:**

The response needs to offer examples which more appropriately support the points that are being made in order for the points to be seen as perceptive.

## Question part (b)

(b) Comment on how language is used to present Francis's feelings in the extract.

Use **evidence** from the extract to support your answer.

(7)

## Script 1 response to part b)

Band 2 – 3 marks

Valid language point but example is not entirely convincing

b) The language that is presented in the extract to present Francis's feelings is emotive. For example in the text it says 'I couldn't afford to let her go'. This means that his feeling were too strong for her to let her go and he could not lose her in his life. By using emotive language it allows the audience to see how strongly Francis's feelings were for Nicole and how much he loved her.

Valid language point supported with reference and explanation of the effects

The author also uses metaphorical language. For example 'anger flashing in her eyes'. Anger does not really flash in Nicole's eyes but by saying it's flashing the writer is saying it's catching Francis's attention and it is also making him feel scared and maybe a bit vulnerable because Nicole is so angry.

Overall the language in the extract to show how Francis feels is effective because the readers know that Francis is scared and disappointed in himself.

**Examiner summary:**

*The candidate offers two examples of the writer's use of language to present Francis's feelings; emotive language and metaphorical language. The example of emotive language is not entirely convincing, but does offer an explanation and an outline of the effects. The discussion around 'anger flashing in her eyes' is most effective when related to making Francis feel scared and vulnerable. Overall, there is just enough to lift the answer into Band 2.*

**Band this answer achieves in the mark scheme:**

2	3-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thorough understanding of how the writer uses language to present ideas to the reader.</li><li>• Sustained reference to the extract to support response.</li></ul>
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**To achieve a higher mark:**

This response needs to offer more analysis of the writer's use of language and use more convincing examples to support the points made.

Script 2 response to part b)

Band 2 – 4 marks

b) In the extract ~~we~~ the writer uses various writing ~~technique~~ ~~techniques~~ techniques to present to us the ~~we~~ character of Francis Cassavant.

The opening word of the extract is 'finally'. This ~~we~~ immediately gives us the impression that Francis is quite a patient man that has ~~been~~ visiting the house on a daily basis however he is giving Nicole the time and space that she needs and not forcing her. This shows that Francis is a considerate man and (Section B continued) that from the previous events he still holds himself guilty and doesn't want to push Nicole into seeing him again before she is ready.

When Francis sees Nicole emerge from the house he calls her name. From how the scene has been set up and previous ~~description~~ descriptions, the voice is read as quite surprised yet very timid with not much confidence behind it.

Valid supported language point. Thorough understanding.

Lacks reference to a language point.

Francis uses the unspoken words 'I couldn't reply, <sup>could find</sup> ~~that~~ no words to utter in my defence.' The use of the word utter to me suggests ~~that~~ automatically that he is ~~def~~ defenceless and that if he had found the words to speak they would probably not be true as he fully believes in what Nicole is suggesting.

Supported reference to a language point, but the explanation lacks clarity

**Examiner summary:**

The candidate begins with an analysis of the word 'finally', deducing that Francis is 'patient' and 'considerate', going on to consider that he 'holds himself guilty'. This is the most successful part of the answer. Beyond this though, the answer does not focus on the language of the extract.

**Band this answer achieves in the mark scheme:**

2	3-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thorough understanding of how the writer uses language to present ideas to the reader.</li> <li>• Sustained reference to the extract to support response.</li> </ul>
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**To achieve a higher mark:**

This response needs to make the writer's language the main focus of the response, as in the second paragraph, and to maintain this focus on language throughout.

### Question part (c)

(c) In the extract, Francis feels guilt.

Explore the significance of guilt in **one other** part of the novel.

You **must** refer to the context of the novel in your answer.

(10)

### Script 1 response to part c)

#### Band 1 – 3 marks

Identification of one other part

c) In the given extract Francis feels guilty, another extract from the book where a character feels guilty is when Francis kills the two, young German soldiers. The two, young German soldiers are about the same age as Francis and he kills them when Francis joins the war. As a result of this Francis feels guilty and feels that the soldiers will haunt him forever. Francis <sup>can</sup> always see picture the two soldier and this plays on his mind all day. Francis joins the army as soon as Nicole doesn't want to talk to him and goes to commit suicide off the church roof but claims 'he could not die that way' because of the shame it would put on his family and because of all the men at war. Francis says 'I am <sup>am</sup> not a hero, I was just there', even though he get ~~the~~ awarded a silver star for jumping on a grenade which saved his platoon but did not kill him as he intended and dying due to guilt. The guilt never left Francis and the two German soldier followed Francis around for the rest of his life.

Explanation of the selected other part in relation to the theme

Reference to context

**Examiner summary:**

*The candidate identifies an appropriate other part of the novel to show the significance of guilt. Francis kills the two young German soldiers. However, after making the point about guilt and how it haunts Francis, it is not developed and the response loses focus on the episode. The context is covered in the references to Francis' wartime experiences and in the reasons for his decision not to jump from the roof.*

**Band this answer achieved in the mark scheme:**

1	1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Generally sound or sound understanding of theme and its importance in one other part of the novel</li><li>• Generally sound or sound reference to the novel's context</li></ul>
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**To achieve a higher mark:**

This response needs to stay more closely focused on the selected other part of the novel and to further develop the significance of the theme as shown in this selected section.

Script 2 response to part c)

Band 2 – 7 marks

Identification of one other part

c) Another part of the extract in which Francis feels guilt is when he receives the silver star medal that is awarded for bravery. He feels guilty as he himself knows that the actions he took weren't brave simply foolish. He tells of how he jumped on the grenade as he saw it as an opportunity to take his own life.

Explanation of the selected event, in reference to the theme

(Section B continued) and he took it. He admits that he didn't take the lives of the other troops into consideration. This manner of attitude suggests that at the time of the incident in which his face got blown off he was not thinking of others and was therefore quite selfish.

This makes him feel guilt like he felt in the extract because he is accepting the medal and receiving the gratitude of saving lives whilst never actually intending to.

Further development of the significance of guilt in the selected episode. Thorough.

~~He~~ He is named a hero and honoured by the people of Frenchtown. However on his return he keeps a low profile but a man - who ~~was~~ ~~was~~ also an ex-serviceman - recognises him through his disguise and says to him 'we are not heroes, we were simply there' this would lessen Francis's guilt as it came from another soldier who knew what it was like being praised for something that wasn't entirely ~~was~~ a good thing.

Significance of guilt within the context of the war.

**Examiner summary:**

*The candidate has selected an appropriate other part of the novel and retains a focus on it. The final paragraph moves away from the selected scene, but is related back to both the theme and the significance of the theme in the selected section. The response shows a thorough understanding of the significance of guilt in the selected section because although Francis committed an apparently heroic act, 'he was not thinking of others' and his actions 'weren't brave simply foolish'.*

**Band this answer achieves in the mark scheme:**

2	4-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thorough understanding of theme and its importance in one other part of the novel</li> <li>• Sustained reference to the novel's context</li> </ul>
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**To achieve a higher mark:**

This response needs a more detailed and perceptive treatment of the significance of the theme of guilt and sustained reference to the context as seen in the chosen 'other part of the novel'.