

Examiners' Report
November 2016

GCSE English 2 5EH2F 01

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Introduction

There was a very small entry of around 200 candidates this series, most of whom were, presumably, re-taking the exam. Predictably, their approach to questions showed purpose and familiarity, with most students clear about what was expected of them and how to organise their time.

Question 1

The extract presented few difficulties and most candidates were fully aware of its context within the play.

a) The Friar was seen as a well-meaning and caring character and the best candidates commented on how he is becoming impatient with Romeo whilst still wanting to protect him.

b) The most successful candidates were those who read the stage directions carefully and understood the inner conflict and tension which besets Friar Lawrence. There were fewer suggestions for actors to 'wave their arms about', thankfully, and many more considered the impact of changing facial expression and tone of voice.

c) Candidates often run out of time for this question but it is not too difficult to gain marks in band three provided candidates clearly identify **another part of the play** and comment on some aspect of character, relationships, ideas, structure and/or plot. Sadly, a significant number made general comments about the youth of Romeo and Juliet without identifying a specific scene. The most successful focused on the lovers' decision to marry, Romeo's decision to gate-crash the party or his fickle discarding of Rosaline.

This is a consistent and detailed response which pays due regard to all parts of the question.

Write your answer to Section A here:

a) From the extract, ~~but~~ we learn that Friar Lawrence is a caring and responsible man. He tries to reason with Romeo, comforting him and giving advice and looking on the up side of the situation. This is ~~is~~ shown when he says "Thou fond ^{mad} man!" He wants Romeo to listen to him and by calling him fond shows he cares but mad because Romeo is over reacting and Friar Lawrence gets frustrated. The exclamation suggests Friar Lawrence is being hard and shouting showing he is frustrated. When he says "I'll give thee armour . . ." he is being caring and understanding. He is like a fatherly figure to Romeo and wants to help him. Romeo coming to him for help shows Friar is a trustworthy man. When the door knocks and he asks Romeo to "Arise!" and Romeo does not move, you can see Friar Lawrence is frustrated. Friar Lawrence

is a caring man who obviously cares and
loves Romeo, ^{so walks him to get up so he isn't caught.} He is a very good friend to
Romeo and looks out for him. He wants to
help and tries to make the situation
better than what it is by comforting Romeo,
again when saying "I'll give thee..... ^{baishad}"

(Section A continued) Friar Lawrence worries for Romeo's
life and cares deeply about him. This is
shown when the door knocks and
Friar Lawrence gets worried and anxious
about who's there. ^{as he doesn't want Romeo killed.} This is shown when
he says, "Romeo, arise! Thou wilt be taken."
He goes from trying to consolidate
Romeo when he says, "I'll give thee...."
to being frustrated with him when he
says, "O, I see ^{thelt} mad men..." to being
worried about him and caring again when
he doesn't know who is knocking at the door.
He goes back to being unsympathetic
when the nurse enters the room and asks
where Romeo is, he answers, "There on the
ground, with his own tears....." being
sarcastic about Romeo saying he is
drowning in his own sorrows. He changes his
feelings on and off from sympathetic to unsympathetic.

b) In the following, "Not I - Unless... eyes."
Romeo is on the floor lay down, ^{on his back} sobbing
and acting immature, over reacting greatly
whilst saying these lines, throwing his hands up
having a child like tantrum, ~~being~~ ^{being} around, in a loud
tone of voice, shouting and sobbing uncontrollably.
In the following when Friar Lawrence says,
"How low they knock!..." he is Friar Lawrence
gets an angry tone of voice.

(Section A continued) He is immediately anxious from the
first knock and now even more anxious ~~as~~
^{picking up and down nod on chin,} and starts ^{as a margin shocked} at the door keeps knocking. The explanation
marks shows he is annoyed that the
knocking continues ^{and says it in a loud tone.} and that he ^{put his} throws
^{hands together} his hands up. When he says, "Romeo, rise!"
he is facing Romeo, frustration and worry.
on his face, shouting ^{and pleading} ^{angry tone of voice.} ^{with} him. He paces
back and forth when saying "Stay a
while! - Stand up!" ^{sarcasmically} ^{like he doesn't care now.} throwing his hands up
ignoring the person knocking the door.
When he says, "Run to my study..." ^{calming}
^{tone of voice,} he is showing Romeo to go with his
hands with a worried expression,
Then an angry expression ^{with hands up in the air} when saying -
"by and by!..." When the knocks get
louder and he says, "Who knocks so...
you will?" he is pacing back and forth
and walks towards the door puzzled

and still worried that Romeo has not moved with a calmer voice tone.

c) In another Part of the Play where youth is important is ^{the balcony scene} 'When Romeo and Juliet say how much they love each other and - are hasty and decide to get married. They are both far too young with Juliet only being 13 years old. They had known each other,

(Section A continued) for only a day and are quick to rush marriage without knowing each other. This shows immaturity and their youth. Youth is important ^{in this scene} because their age makes them rash thinkers who think they are in love or fall in love too quickly.

and they do not think of their consequences. without this scene we would not see so much of their youth.

Their youth is important because if they was not so young they wouldnt be rash into falling in love and marriage and without this there would not be a good storyline and plot which leads to tragedy.

Youth is important because they are still immature and have no life experiences and are fickle.



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Examiner Comments

This response was given full marks for all parts. The comments about Friar Lawrence are considered and well-supported.

Most of the performance suggestions are viable and show due regard for the characters and the situation.

The c) question focuses one particular part of the play and demonstrates the candidate's informed response.



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Examiner Tip

Leave sufficient time to answer all parts of the question fully.

Question 7

Most candidates understood the dynamics at work in the extract and were able to place it in context.

a) Curley's wife was seen as racist, cruel and aggressive by most, but others also paid attention to her more sympathetic approach to Lennie. A large number of candidates gained full marks by making straightforward observations supported by relevant quotations.

b) The majority of candidates answered this question on language with notable success. Large numbers picked out words or phrases which indicated how Crooks recedes into himself, how Candy 'quietly' attempts to assert some kind of dignity or how Lennie reverts to 'whining'.

c) Rather too many candidates ranged widely over the novella to describe the power structure on the ranch but the more successful chose a specific incident such as Lennie's retaliation in the face of Curley's assault.

This response gained full marks for all three parts of the question.

Write your answer to Section B here:

The character of Curley's wife is threatening. "you know... your traps" this shows she is using her status and power to gain control. She knows she can threaten anyone and get away with it as she's the daughter-in-law to the boss.

The character of Curley's wife is rude. "listen, nigger" this shows she thinks she can be little someone and be rude because he was black. and that she has no respect and thinks she's higher than him. "well... place than nigger"

The character of Curley wife is great so
"I'm glad you bust ... myself" This
shows she was great so Lennie hurt Curley
as she does not like her own husband

(Section B continued) and believes he got what
he deserved and would do it if she
could.

The character of Curley wife ~~is~~ craves
power "I could get you strung up on
a tree so easy it ain't even funny"
This shows she is letting Crook know she
is in control and has the power and
whatever she says goes. And if you push
me anymore I will make it happen"

(Section B continued)

~~The language used is~~

Crook shows he's scared of Curly Wise. ~~The writer is showing how language Crook shows~~
The phrase "pressed himself against the wall" this shows ~~the writer has used~~ how Crook couldn't back up any more and tried to get away from her using "pressed" shows he was pushing himself up against the wall as far as he could.

Crook shows he's intimidated by Curly Wise. The phrase "sat perfectly still ... drawn in" this shows how Crook is anxious of getting hurt "everything that might be hurt drawn in" by using the words "eyes averted" shows how intimidated he was as he would not look her in the eye.

Candy shows he's defeated. The phrase "Candy subsided ... to us" this shows that he realises no one would believe them over Curly's Wise "no body ~~was~~ listen to us" using the word 'subsided' shows how Candy is defeated and realised there no point standing up to her as you can't win.

(Section B continued)

Lennie shows he's scared of Curley's wife "Lennie whined ... was here" this shows Lennie is worried by what she's going to do. By using the word "whined" is childlike and saying "I wish George was here" shows he's scared and wants George to protect him and save him from Curley's wife as Lennie ~~knows~~^{thinks} nothing bad will happen when George is there.

(Section B continued)

Another part of the novel where power is important is when George tells Lennie to stand up and fight back to Curley, resulting in Curley's hand getting broken. George has power over Lennie and Lennie will always do what George asks of him. ~~then~~ this was out of character for Lennie as he doesn't like to hurt anyone and doesn't do it on purpose. It is out of character for George to tell Lennie to hurt someone but couldn't see Lennie getting hurt. ~~is this didn't take part then every~~ Lennie looks up to George because George looks after him as Lennie has a ~~weak~~

Looks at star him as Lennie has a mental disability. Steinbeck was showing us how in the 1930's disability were not understood by everyone and how they would be targets for mean people (in this case Curley) In the 1930 violence was how you established power in a group setting. Power was really important in 1930's to establish your ranking.



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The response to a) is systematic. At least three clear points are made and each is supported with an appropriate quotation.

In the b) response, the use of 'the phrase...' as a starter helps the candidate to comment on language rather than on character.

In c), there is a clearly identified 'other part', a comment on George's power over Lennie and a relevant link to context.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Remember that the b) question requires you to focus on the language of the extract.

Question 11

This was the much more popular choice in Section C. Candidates had strong views against zoos when they offered limited space for the animals but favoured wildlife parks which allowed more freedom. Some candidates only saw the potential benefits for visitors but more engaging responses took account of the conservation work done by zoos and parks.

As always, much depends on how candidates are able to develop ideas whilst writing accurately in well-structured sentences.

This response was awarded full marks for all assessment objectives.

Write your answer to Section C here:

PLAN - Benefits
Zoos/parks → see animals you wouldn't see
INTRO → explore their habitat ✓
Paragraph 1 → feed them ✓
2 → family time ✓
3 → how they're looked after ✓
4 → Prevents extinction ✓
Conclusion:
- animals not happy ✓
- not natural habitat ✓
My opinions
- small living areas ✓
- animals on verge of extinction ✓
- money - for these places ✓

Question 11

Hello,

My name is Danielle, today I am going to speaking to you all about zoos and wildlife parks. We have many around the UK and a lot of us will visit one, or will have visited one before. I will

(Section C continued)

Voicing my ~~opion~~ opinion,
However will be grateful of your
opinions at the end.

I feel having many zoos and wild-
life parks within the UK, is of huge
benefit to people. I think especially
families with children, we may
only ever see ~~this~~ animals within a
book, or on images via the internet
otherwise. As individuals we are able
to gain some knowledge of these
animals by watching skilled
practitioners care for them. We can
experience where ~~this~~ ^{the} animals and
wildlife live, and how they react
within their environment. Some zoos
and parks have daily shows or feeding
times for particular animals, where you
can experience this and have an insight as
to what the animals eat.

Have any of you experienced this?
What did you enjoy about your experience?
It is all over the news, articles etc informing
us that animals such as elephants,
penguins and monkeys are on the verge

(Section C continued) of extinction. How do we feel about this?

If we didn't have these zoos and parks, maybe they ^{would} die out quicker.

Another benefit to these, is they are cared for by trained practitioners. If an animal is ill they are cared for. They have a secure home and food daily.

Now I am going to chat about the difficulties these places may cause. Yes some of us think they're a fantastic opportunity for us to visit, however, they are somewhat costly. If you think about how much it costs us to live, say for example an elephant. They eat huge amounts more than us human beings. Their habitat will have to be made safe and secure, it will be plotted within huge acres of land. The costs of training the staff members, vets etc to care for these is very much needed but again will be expensive. Overall the cost is a major difficulty. Although we think we're helping these animals, let's ask ourselves are we really?

(Section C continued) We have taken small amounts of animals and wildlife to make up these parks. Did anyone ever think about the well-being of the animals themselves. We should leave them within their natural habitat, to live the life they deserve. These areas we provide them with are made to recreate their natural environment, but they are not as big as the forests, and other places they are used to. Did we really ever think about the happiness of these creatures?

I am now going to voice my opinion on the whole situation. I feel the benefits such as, having first hand experience of these animals and them having the opportunity to be saved from extinction is fantastic. However are we really saving them or killing them off quicker?

I myself have visited zoos and wildlife parks several times. It is an amazing experience seeing a penguin wandering around, but how do ~~do~~ we

(Section C continued) know they're happy with people watching them all day long. I have a mixed opinion and at present cannot sway more to one side.

Wherever or whatever the debate may be everyone will have an opinion. Some people have a totally different solution to it all. Only time will tell, in say twenty years will money be still available to support these organizations? We will have to wait and see, Now does anyone have any questions? Thank you all for listening.



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Examiner Comments

This is a balanced response which considers some benefits and disadvantages. It offers a fairly broad view of the issues involved and, although there are errors, the language used is clear and well-ordered. It never loses sight of the fact that it is meant to be a talk to the candidate's peers.



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Examiner Tip

Plan your response before you begin to write it. Consider the audience and purpose of the task.

Question 12

There were a number of thoughtful responses which explored the merits of achieving happiness in the service of others. Others successfully considered the transience of short-term gratification compared to adopting a life that had more grounding and substance. Less rewarding approaches offered lists of the 'Happiness is...' variety.

To achieve success, candidates must shape their views to be appealing to the intended audience whilst showing due regard for technical accuracy.

This response was awarded full marks.

Write your answer to Section C here:

Happiness... umm what is happiness?
Happiness is viewed in many ways personal to the individual. However, I intend to explore various views and my own personal views within this article.

Upon discussion with various friends and colleagues I asked them the question, "What is happiness to you?" The responses were varied, they ranged from 'winning the lottery', 'a good holiday' to 'the birth of a child'. Yet that said a common theme from the responses were that these were somewhat short term fixes rather than long term.

Happiness long term was defined quite differently. It appears that

(Section C continued)

Long term happiness was defined by 'good health', 'a happy loving relationship', 'a good income hence no money worries' and a degree of 'world peace'.

I myself, personally agree with most of the ~~previous~~ previous answers, apart from missing the lottery as I feel that could bring about stress due to the 'begging bowl' letters it could generate.

I'm sure all of us have woken up the day after a great evening out with friends and felt amazing! Yet the next day have become disillusioned with the World. What do we do to combat this?

Well I have taken up meditation and yoga so as to enhance this feeling of happiness. Well you may exclaim. I have found that the two activities help me to find a coping mechanism when I start

(Section C continued)

to feel the feeling of ~~dis~~ disillusionment.

OK I understand this may not be your thing, but you have to try and find the thing or activity that is the equivalent to my meditation and yoga. Hence further ~~it~~ illustrating that it is a personal journey to the individual.

That being said though group activities can also increase ones feeling of happiness. I have joined a group of ladies on Facebook who meet up once a month and attend various outings. IE. the theatre, afternoons teas, book clubs etc.

What is great about this for me is the meeting of new people away from friends I have known for years. It brings about a renewed me in some senses a re-birth. In turn a happiness due to not being judged for previous indiscretions or falling out!

(Section C continued)

How can we improve our chance of happiness one may ask. How long is a piece of string?

In answer to this I feel trying to keep active, spending time with loved ones be it family or friends, a positive attitude and a gratefulness for the positive things we have in life can improve our chances of a continued happiness. Alongside these things a personal knowledge of what personally to you raises your personal happiness level.

I feel it is important to point out that yes life throws us some sods we have no control over, a death of a loved one or a diagnosis of ill health. At such times happiness is thrown out of the window. Yet, even in these circumstances I like to think happiness can be obtained eventually, again.



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Examiner Comments

This is an engaging response, offering mature, well-considered views. It benefits from a fairly extensive vocabulary and fully-controlled sentence structures.



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Examiner Tip

Voice your own opinions but be aware of the views of others.

Paper Summary

There are signs that the (a) questions in both sections A and B are being approached with assurance and confidence by most candidates. Many more than in the past are able to meet the challenges of the language question in Section B, and have clearly benefited from word – and phrase – level analysis, whilst many candidates would benefit from a structured approach to answering the performance question in Section A. Answers to (c) questions in both Reading Sections have shown a marked improvement with some centres clearly adopting CRISP, or something similar, to give candidates a helpful framework.

There has been an apparent and continuing increase in the number of candidates managing their time effectively and completing all sections of the paper.

Writing responses clearly benefit from being carefully planned and checked for accuracy.

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Use a structured approach to answer the performance question in Section A
- Use word and phrase level analysis in the language question in Section B
- A framework such as CRISP may help in the Reading sections
- Carefully plan and check your writing response for accuracy.

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