

## English Literature

One Paper

2 questions - 1 hour 45 minutes

1 question from Section A

1 question from Section B

### Section A - The Novel

Answer ONE question on the text studied

Spend approximately 45 minutes

### **Key Assessment**

There are four assessment objectives:

The Specification says ...	So you need to ...
1. respond to texts critically, sensitively, and in detail, selecting appropriate ways to convey your response, using textual evidence as appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• know the texts really well</li><li>• learn about their content (what happens) and style (how they are written)</li><li>• know how to write about a text, including how to use quotations</li></ul>
2. explore how language, structure and forms contribute to the meaning of texts, considering different approaches to texts and alternative interpretations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• be confident in discussing the language and structure of the text</li><li>• have ideas about different views of the text</li></ul>
3. explore relationships and comparisons within and between texts, selecting and evaluating relevant material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• make links between ideas in a text, and between the different texts you study</li><li>• support your points with examples</li></ul>

There will be a choice of two questions on any text studied.

The following are the different texts that you could have studied:-

'To Kill a Mockingbird' H Lee

'Lord of the Flies' W Golding

'Of Mice and Men' by J Steinbeck

'Heroes' R Cormier

'A Kestrel for a Knave' by B Hines

**Example questions for 'Of Mice and Men'**

1. *Of Mice and Men* shows us that people can be cruel, or kind, or sometimes a mixture of both. Compare three characters.

Write about:

- the ways in which the different characters are cruel, or kind, or a mixture of both
- why they behave as they do
- how you respond to them
- how Steinbeck writes about them to make you respond this way.

2. Remind yourself of the description of Lennie's fight with Curley in Chapter 3.

Write about:

- the different aspects of Lennie shown in the passage
- what is revealed about the relationship between George and Lennie, and about Curley
- how this passage links with other parts of the novel
- the importance of the passage in the novel as a whole.

3. Many characters in *Of Mice and Men* are shown to be lonely.

Write about loneliness in the novel.

You should write about:

- characters who are lonely
- how the writer shows their loneliness
- the differences and similarities between lonely characters
- what you think the writer is saying about loneliness.

4. Find the passage in the novel where Lennie kills Curley's wife, from the description of the barn to the point when Lennie leaves to go to the brush.

Write about:

- why the writer begins this passage with the dead puppy
- why Lennie and Curley's wife behave in the way they do
- how the writer makes the death seem unavoidable
- whether you were surprised when you first read about her death, and why.

**Sample Answer**

The response below is to the following question: 'Look at the opening of the scene in which Lennie is alone in Crooks' room. How does the scene increase our understanding of both Lennie and Crooks?'

Sample Answer	Comments by Examiner
<p>This extract gives a detailed description of Crooks, his room, and his possessions. It shows the effect Lennie has on Crooks during his visit. At the beginning of the extract Lennie is not welcomed into Crooks' room, but by the end they have begun to understand and perhaps trust each other. It is another example of the way Lennie makes people trust him and start to talk openly about personal feelings. Curley's wife also does this, and so does George.</p>	<p>This starts very well. It has a clear focus on the early part of the scene. It needs a quotation or two.</p>
<p>Crooks' room tells us about the sad life he leads. He has few possessions. There is 'a mauled copy of the California civil code for 1905' and some 'gold-rimmed spectacles'. These suggest that he is educated and aware of his rights, even though he is treated in a cruel way. He is a victim of prejudice. The book shows that he is aware of this. Despite the way he is treated 'Crooks was a proud, aloof man'. John Steinbeck helps us to feel sympathy for him, whilst also showing that Crooks is self-contained and able to rely on himself.</p>	<p>There is some good detail here, well supported by quotations. The point about Crooks' possessions, and what these reveal about him, is good.</p>
<p>It becomes clear in this scene that he has suffered years of loneliness. He is very annoyed when Lennie first enters the room, saying 'You got no right to come in my room. This here's my room'. Crooks is protective of his own territory and - after years of being abused - distrusts anyone who approaches him. We can see how proud he is from the way he is eager to show that he is a good worker. He tries to reassure Lennie that he can still work hard despite his disability. He wants to join George and Lennie's dream to give his life more purpose. This is emphasised by the fact that he is willing to work for just a bed and some food and go without wages.</p>	<p>This paragraph also contains good points. It needs some more supporting quotations.</p>
<p>The men on the ranch are pleasant to Crooks only when it suits them. For example, at Christmas 'they let the nigger come in'. Lennie however treats him as an equal and simply wants someone to talk to. At times Crooks talks cruelly about this, taunting Lennie about George not coming back. This gets Lennie upset and 'Crooks saw the danger as it approached him'. This shows a cruel streak in Crooks, but it is probably because he is jealous of Lennie having someone who he can trust. Lennie certainly trusts George totally, saying 'He'll come back</p>	<p>This paragraph isn't directly relevant to the question. It is about the way the other characters treat Crooks rather than about his relationship with Lennie in a single scene.</p>

to-night'.	
Lennie's language is simpler than Crooks'. This is because Crooks is educated and Lennie is not and is mentally below average. The scene shows that although the two characters do not have much in common they learn a lot from each other, and we learn a lot from seeing them in this scene.	This promises to focus on the language but it actually says little. It does draw together a few of the themes of the essay as a whole.

### **Conclusion**

This answer starts well. It lacks a clear structure and doesn't have enough supporting points. For a top grade it needs to say more about the language used in the novel.

Work likely to be produced by a B grade candidate.

### **Sample Exam Questions on 'Lord of the Flies' by W Golding**

1. How does Golding show that Ralph is changed by his experience on the island? What do you think he has learnt by the end?

You might focus on:

- what he is like when we first meet him
- how he responds to different events and situations
- how the writer presents the character of Ralph - for example, whether we find him a sympathetic (likeable) character
- Ralph's function in the novel - his importance and symbolic value
- your own opinions of Ralph

2. Write about two of the following themes as they are presented in the novel:

- violence and savagery
- children and adults
- loyalty and trust
- meetings and rituals

3. Ralph says 'Things are breaking up. I don't understand why. We began well. We were happy.' Explain what goes wrong and why.

4. Write about the importance of the conch in *Lord of the Flies*, plus one of these other important items:

- Piggy's glasses
- the fire
- the parachutist
- the pig's head

5. How does William Golding show an increasing sense of violence in the novel? You might refer to:

- the events of the novel
- the behaviour of the characters
- how one act leads to another

### Writing about the Novel

What does *Lord of the Flies* show us about human nature, and how does it show this?

#### Sample Answer

This is a sample answer for the questions 'What does 'Lord of the Flies' show us about human nature and how does it show this?'

Sample Answer	Comments by Examiner
<p>Throughout the novel William Golding explores human nature. It is revealed through Simon's conversation with the imaginary Lord of the Flies when he realises that the real beast is one that exists in all the boys. We see it in 'the true, wise friend called Piggy', in the stone-throwing Roger, and in the gang-mentality which takes over the boys.</p>	<p>You start well. The opening shows clear engagement with the question and it is good that you include a quotation so early.</p>
<p>The boys start well, and this shows a positive side of human nature. They discover fire, they build shelters, and they explore the island. They each have different roles and, for a while, stick to them. Piggy, Ralph and Simon serve as reminders in the novel that there is lots to admire in humans. Each of them shows positive qualities of wisdom and goodness in their own way.</p>	<p>This is also a solid paragraph, but it risks being a bit general. It does need a quotation.</p>
<p>Piggy, for example, is intelligent and practical, despite his asthma and poor eyesight. In many ways he is the voice of science and reason on the island: 'Piggy, for all his ludicrous body, had brains'. Piggy first suggests that Ralph should 'find the others' and 'call a meeting'. He often comes up with the solutions to the boys' problems. He suggests putting the fire on the mountain.</p>	<p>Although very brief, this uses evidence well to highlight Piggy's character. You should include the concept of 'human nature' to show that you are addressing the question directly.</p>
<p>Golding presents Ralph as a natural leader and he tries to set up a form of democracy on the island - backed by the conch. He shows care for others and also displays courage</p>	<p>This shows a good insight into Ralph's character. You could show how his character</p>

<p>when he volunteers to explore Castle Rock alone in search of the beast. He gets frustrated by others but never really loses his patience. At the end he has learnt about the 'darkness of man's heart' and understands too late the value of Piggy. Through Ralph, Golding shows us a positive side of human nature.</p>	<p>develops - and how stable his nature is, despite being severely tested.</p>
<p>Jack is shown as someone who also has natural leadership but who exploits his power. At the start he is a dark figure on the beach, leading a 'creature' which proves to be the choirboys in procession. Jack is menacing from the start. He controls people through violence and he doesn't show the same sense of responsibility as Ralph - for example, letting the fire go out. He shows the weakness of human nature - the way we can be tempted to do things that are wrong. For example, using face-paints he loses his own identity and then starts to allow terrible things to happen, like the killing of Simon.</p>	<p>This paragraph is a bit generalised, with just one short quotation. The content is good, though it feels a bit rushed.</p>
<p>The author also shows a positive side to human nature through Simon. At times he seems like a Christ-like figure and a saint. He more than anyone looks after the children - the littluns. He is tormented in the wilderness by the Beast (as Jesus was tempted by the Devil). He is finally tortured by people he should have been able to rely on. Simon is a true friend to Ralph - and encourages him to 'go on being Chief'. He seems mystical when he predicts that Ralph will 'get back all right'.</p>	<p>This explores Simon's character well, and it links well to the human nature theme.</p>
<p>Although Golding seems to present a depressing view of human nature, he does give the reader some hope for the future. At the end of the novel Ralph is a different boy and he 'weeps for the end of innocence'. He has seen and understood 'the darkness of man's heart' and has come to appreciate Piggy who earlier he had dismissed as a fool. The fact that he appears to have learnt something from his horrific experiences hints at a feeling of hope for the future. At least humans can learn from their mistakes.</p>	<p>This is a good conclusion, which draws the theme together well.</p>

**Conclusion**

At times this reads a bit more like a character study than an exploration of Human nature. You need to keep repeating the phrase 'human nature' in Each paragraph to emphasise the theme. It is a bit odd starting with Piggy - you might have begun with Ralph first as the main character. Use of quotations

is mostly good, though there is room for more. You need to say more about Golding's use of form, structure, and language. Your expression is mostly good, with some well-chosen, precise vocabulary. Overall - a very accomplished essay.

Work likely to be produced by a B+ grade candidate.

### **Section B - Pre 1914 and Post 1914 Poetry**

Answer ONE question

You will have a choice of 3 questions

**The assessment objectives are:**

Candidates are required to demonstrate their ability to:

AO1 respond to texts critically, sensitively and in detail, selecting appropriate ways to convey their response, using textual evidence as appropriate;

AO2 explore how language, structure and forms contribute to the meanings of texts, considering different approaches to texts and alternative interpretations;

AO3 explore relationships and comparisons between texts, selecting and evaluating relevant material;

AO4 relate texts to their social, cultural and historical contexts and literary traditions.

The Poems are:

C A Duffy      Havisham  
                         Anne Hathaway (H)  
                         Salome  
                         Before You Were Mine (H)  
                         Education for Leisure  
                         Stealing

S Armitage      Mother, any distance greater than a single span (H)  
                         My father thought it bloody queer  
                         November  
                         Kid  
                         Hitcher  
                         Homecoming (H)

Pre-1914 Poetry Bank On my first Sonnet

The Song of the Old Mother

The Man he Killed

Sonnet 130 (H)

My Last Duchess (H)

The Laboratory

You will be expected to compare the poems in terms of:-

- themes/content
- tone/mood
- structure/language/form/literary techniques
- purpose and intention

You will have to answer FOUR poems, at least one from each section, C A Duffy, S Armitage, Pre 1914 Poetry.

Ensure all points use the PEE structure.

Check spelling and punctuation.