



Cambridge Assessment
International Education

Example Candidate Responses

Paper 1 Prose

Cambridge O Level Literature in English 2010



Introduction

The main aim of this booklet is to exemplify standards for those teaching Cambridge O Level Literature in English 2010, and to show how high level candidates performance relates to the subject's assessment objectives.

In this booklet candidate responses are derived from the real scripts of candidates from the June 2017 series of Cambridge IGCSE Literature (English) 0486, which runs in parallel with Cambridge O Level Literature in English 2010.

For each question, the response is annotated with numbers, which correspond to the examiner comments.

The full question papers and mark schemes used in this resource are Paper 1 from the June 2017 exam series for Cambridge IGCSE Literature (English) 0486 and can be downloaded in full from the School Support Hub: www.cambridgeinternational.org/support.

The relevant files are:

- June 2017 Question Paper 11
- June 2017 Question Paper 12
- June 2017 Paper 11 Mark Scheme
- June 2017 Paper 12 Mark Scheme

Contents

Question 13: George Eliot: *Silas Marner*

Question 15: Michael Frayn: *Spies*

Question 15: Michael Frayn: *Spies*

Question 19: R K Narayan: *The English Teacher*

Question 21: Adam Thorpe: *Tyres*

Question 22: *Stories of Ourselves*

Question 13

13. Read this extract, and then answer the question that follows it:

Silas Marner by George Eliot

How does Eliot make William Dane's betrayal of Silas so disturbing at this moment in the novel?

In this passage we see Silas being exiled from his church in Lantern Yard. This is an important scene as it gives us the backstory of why Silas goes to Raveloe, and why he keeps himself detached from the people and religion. In this passage we see Silas being betrayed by both his close friend, and his church. **1**

One way in which Eliot vividly makes Dane's betrayal disturbing is through his dialogue. At the beginning of the passage, William calls Silas 'Brother' and says he doesn't 'know' what Silas has done in the 'secret chambers' of his 'heart' to give 'Satan an advantage over'

2 Silas. This makes the betrayal disturbing because of the contrast. William calls Silas 'brother' which conveys a closeness between the two men, and a strong bond. **3** However Dane then asks Silas if he has let 'Satan' into his 'heart'. This is in striking contrast as 'Satan'

is the symbol of evil, which implies William thinks Silas has become evil. It is disturbing as you usually expect a person who calls you 'brother' to believe you and support you. But William does not. **4**

He worsens Silas' case as the closest person to him. Furthermore, William continues this belief **5** to the end of the passage. When Silas accuses him of the crime, **6** he says that he leaves the choice with the 'brethren' and that he believes Silas voice is the voice of 'Satan'. This is disturbing to the reader as by the end, we know William is the true culprit and that he was Silas' dearest friend. **7**

EXAMINER COMMENTS

- 1 A useful, focused introduction, showing knowledge of context and of the significance of the incident.
- 2 The candidate identifies a relevant aspect of the passage and paraphrases it. The candidate is feeling a way into the question.
- 3 This shows understanding of the nature of the relationship and is relevantly tied to the question.
- 4 The candidate develops the point well and shows understanding of the severity of the betrayal.
- 5 The candidate recognises the viewpoint and supports with apt quotations. This is not William's belief, it is part of his lying. The candidate needs to be more precise in explaining.
- 6 This is not entirely clear. Does the candidate write Silas instead of William? What is the crime? A little more context here would help.
- 7 The candidate understands the situation but needs to explore it in more detail and refer more closely to the passage.

It is disturbing as he reinforces this **8** demonic power of Silas that we know is not true. There are no emotions which is saddening for readers as Silas held William in high regard, But he has betrayed **9** him and left the decision to others. It only makes William look cowardly as he didn't get involved in the decision of the exile of Silas, however we know it was because he wanted Silas' fiancée. **10**

The second way in which this scene is made disturbing **11** is through Silas' dialogue. Silas pleads with William at the beginning saying how they have known each other 'for nine years' and that he knows 'God will clear him'. This makes us feel empathetic towards Silas as it displays him as a trusting man. **12** He doesn't fight over the accusation, but instead trusts William and God, two people he loves, to clear him. It makes the reader feel sadness for him as William betrays him. This is continued as he realises it was William, but instead of saying anything or revealing William he says 'I am sore stricken; I can say nothing. God will clear me'. 'Sore stricken' conveys physical pain caused by the event. **13** This makes the betrayal more disturbing as it conjures an image of Silas being in a lot of pain at the hands of a person he loves. By saying 'nothing' it is showing Silas' trust in God to clear his name. This makes it more disturbing as William has left Silas with only God to rely on; he has taken his pride in the Community. **14** **15**

After being told to leave Lantern Yard, Silas goes to William and says 'You stole the money' and that 'there is no just God that governs earth righteously'. This makes William's actions and betrayal more disturbing **16** as through it all, Silas does not once mention William's involvement. Only at the end, when he is being exiled, does he even confess it to William. **17** This saddens the reader as it shows how kind and dignified **18** Silas is that he wouldn't storm out the church

EXAMINER COMMENTS

- 8 This could have been expressed more accurately. Silas does not have demonic power, William is merely asserting that he is influenced by Satan. The candidate does understand William's deception.
- 9 The candidate knows the outcome and William's motivation.
- 10 The candidate gives a personal response to William.
- 11 The candidate remains focused on the Question.
- 12 The candidate understands Silas's character and responds to him.
- 13 The candidate begins to explore language and its effects.
- 14 This is not entirely clear – how are his belief in God and his pride in his community related?
- 15 A well argued paragraph with textual support.
- 16 This comment refers to the Question and selects a very important quotation but does not show the full significance: that Silas's religious faith has been destroyed.
- 17 What does he confess?
- 18 A personal response to Silas.

shouting at William. In addition to this, the betrayal is so disturbing as not only doesn't it ruin Williams relationship with Silas, but also Silas' relationship with God. **19** Silas ends the passage believing there is no 'righteous' 'God.' this makes William's betrayal even more sickening as it has led to Silas losing the very 'being' that he has built his life around all these years. **20** It shows how Silas' life has been completely ruined, which is saddening for a reader as all events leading up to this have shown Silas as kind and trusting. To see him being stripped of this makes William's betrayal so much worse. **21**

The final device used to make Dane's betrayal so disturbing is the narration of the church drawing lots. This event itself makes Dane's **22** betrayal sickening because he has left Silas to depend on pure chance of the lots as to whether or not he is guilty, even though he knows he is innocent. Moreover, Silas is described to be 'relying on his own innocence'. This conveys Silas as hopeful and trusting in God's power to clear his name. It also shows that William has left him on his own in his struggle to prove this innocence. Eliot then describes how Silas' 'trust in men had been cruelly bruised'. 'Cruel' implies a horrible, tortuous act and 'bruised', again implies physical pain caused by Williams betrayal. **23**

EXAMINER COMMENTS

19 A very significant point which could be developed.

20 The point is expanded here.

21 Silas has lost his trust, but we do not see his kindness destroyed so this is quite a loose comment. The candidate is still focused on the question, however.

22 Apt choice of support. A central point which might have been developed further as it casts light on the nature of the religious community to which Silas belongs.

23 A slightly abrupt ending but another attempt to analyse language.

The candidate knows the text and responds in detail to the question, retaining focus on the word 'disturbing' throughout. The argument is supported by reference to the extract and there is some exploration of the effects of language. The answer is clear, relevant and well developed. There is a strong personal response to Silas and some understanding of the implications for his future that the incident reveals, though perhaps his loss of faith in God is understated.

Ways in which the answer could have been improved:

There might have been more consideration of the character of William Dane and his manipulateness. The community of Lantern Yard might also have been looked at in more detail, for example, the drawing of lots, as an example of superstition and irrationality, is mentioned but not explored. There are also one or two quite loose assertions and the selected quotations, though relevant, might have been analysed in more detail.

Question 15

15. Read this extract, and then answer the question that follows it:

Spies by Michael Frayn

How does Frayn's writing convey Stephen's fear so vividly at this moment in the novel?

In this moment towards the end of the Novel, Stephen is trying to hide the evidence that he knew about the man hiding in the tunnel. He is beyond the understanding that his game with Keith has gone too far this time; he is now at a point of panic. **1** Frayn effectively conveys Stephen's fear at this point of the novel by emphasizing Stephen's loneliness, the darkness, that engulfs him **2** and his heightened attention to detail.

Throughout the whole extract, it's obvious Stephen is not only literally alone, he is also alone in his own mind and in life. **3** He is the only one who knows about the scarf; not even his best friend Keith knows this secret. 'Keith will find it there.' **4** The novel is written from two narrators, older Stefan and younger Stephen but in this extract there is great emphasis on Stephen **5** trying to figure out what to do in his mind. 'Where am I going to find a hiding place?' 'Is this what woke me?' 'Yes, where is it?' **6** The reader knows he is alone because he is asking and answering these questions himself but they also understand he is confused and in panic. He keeps questioning everything to figure out what's going on. The whole extract is him figuring out how to solve a problem; however, he is alone. This adds to the creepiness of the situation as it seems he is lost **7** with no one to guide him but himself.

EXAMINER COMMENTS

- 1 The candidate shows knowledge of the context of the extract and expresses it succinctly.
- 2 The answer focuses on the Question.
- 3 A well expressed point.
- 4 There is knowledge of the context here and apt choice of support.
- 5 The candidate recognises the viewpoint and supports it but does not show the relevance of the older Stefan's view here.
- 6 The candidate uses quotation effectively.
- 7 A well developed point.

Moreover, to add to the eeriness and sadness created by Stephen's loneliness, Frayn provides repetitive and detailed descriptions of The night. Night has connotations of crime and pain and fear, which are all aspects of this part of the novel. 'breathing darkness' Frayn brings the darkness to life by personifying it. **8** The image of lonely Stephen encountering this living thing which surrounds him emphasises the fear he must feel. Even more breathing should be a sign of life and good things, but in this case the night is alive and is **9** there to scare Stephen. Frayn describes the tunnel as being in 'pitch darkness'. This concept of darkness is repeated because its partly what is freaking Stephen out. However, as the reader we know that the darkness is just to add to the fear Stephen already has of being discovered and the push he feels of not having helped Uncle peter. **10** Darkness also disorientates someone and it becomes clear Stephen feels different so he states 'The whole sound and shape of the world has become in some way dislocated.' **11** He doesn't just state 'This town' he states 'the world' showing the reader this event had an huge impact on Stephen's life. He saw things not really just because of the darkness but because of Keith and Stephen's game which just went too far. **12** The intensifier 'whole' also emphasizes the size of the change. The darkness emphasizes Stephens fear but it also plays on the deeper feelings of Stephen; The other reasons he is frightened.

Furthermore, Stephens attention to details are heightened, especially to sounds. 'There's some kind of lurking presence. A sound of some kind'. **13** This is creepy to the reader as Stephen is alone and vulnerable to whatever's out there. He then proceeds to describe the sound, 'as if some creature were quietly and inexhaustibly exhaling'. This link to breathing darkness which follows creates a very creepy image. **14** The darkness is alive and can not run out of energy 'inexhaustibly'. **15** When in fact unimportant thoughts are shut

EXAMINER COMMENTS

- 8 A well developed point exploring the language used to create the atmosphere.
- 9 A perceptive point which goes beyond surface explanation.
- 10 The candidate contextualises the situation and shows knowledge of the whole novel.
- 11 A good choice of quotation and a developed comment though more might have been said about 'dislocated'. There is a good understanding of the effect of the sentence.
- 12 Another reference to context, though a little explanation of the game might have enhanced the point.
- 13 A good point with relevant supporting quotation.
- 14 There is some repetition here. The candidate chooses the same image to explore as in the previous paragraph.
- 15 Economical and effective use of quotation.

off and your focus is on survival. These sounds and this life of the darkness is a threat to Stephen. He continues to focus on sounds throughout the rest of the extract creating auditory images; not literary with onomatopoeia but simply with descriptions of the ¹⁶ sound. 'For a moment I think I hear muffled distant voices calling.' It turns out these voices are non-existent which links to Stephen's statement about 'The whole sound ... of the world [being] dislocated.' ¹⁷ The use of the descriptions triggers the reader's own memories of creepy sounds, and on top of this we know Stephen is alone and in the dark so the reader can almost feel Stephen's fear.

In conclusion, in this moment in the novel, Frayn's writing conveys Stephen's fear vividly to the reader. He places emphasis on the ¹⁸ darkness which has connotations of creepiness, Stephen's loneliness which adds to his fear, and the panic Stephen feels as he questions each aspect of his movement as well as what he is hearing. His heightened attention to sounds shows the reader just how lonely he is and how desperate he is. ¹⁹ Stephen's life did change from this moment onwards. Previously, he was oblivious to what was going on around him but now he knew more than he bargained for. Frayn implies this concept of his world being 'dislocated' because it quite literally was. In a small period of time everything had changed and that in itself is terrifying not only to Stephen but to anyone. To live in a world alone, in darkness and where you know you are to blame for someone's death ²⁰ is terrifying to anyone, and this is how Frayn presents Stephen's new reality.

EXAMINER COMMENTS

- 16 The candidate explores the way the words and images appeal to the senses.
- 17 The candidate uses this quotation again but does not see another internal link.
- 18 The candidate focuses on the terms of the question to bring the answer to a conclusion.
- 19 The candidate is referring to the Question and rounding off the answer.
- 20 The candidate clearly knows what follows the incident and also sees the implications for Stephen, though Uncle Peter's death is not clearly made relevant to the extract.

This is a fluent and convincing response to the question and is engaged with both the novel and the task. There is a developed response to Stephen's predicament which is firmly rooted in the text and supported with apt quotations and there is some useful, if slightly undeveloped external reference. The candidate concentrates on the second half of the passage and misses the opportunity to make useful comments about the first half and how the atmosphere and the scenery build up tension in the approach to the tunnel, but the moment when Stephen arrives there is dealt with in detail. The effect of language is commented on in detail, though there is some repetition, but the candidate makes links between images and shows awareness of the writer's methods and intentions. This is a well-shaped and thoughtful answer.

Ways in which the answer could have been improved:

The candidate could have referred to the whole passage since the first half with its description of the atmosphere of the Lanes and the hostility of the children is very relevant to the build-up of tension. Time could have been spent on this rather than on exploring a limited number of images more than once. There might also have been more contextualisation of the passage, for example of Stephen's reasons for going to the tunnel and the significance of the scarf.

Question 15

15. Read this extract, and then answer the question that follows it:

Spies by Michael Frayn

How does Frayn's writing powerfully create tension at this moment in the novel?

In this passage Stephen is making the terrifying journey to the Barns by himself in order to deliver provisions as Mrs Hayward asked him to do so. **1** Frayn powerfully creates tension by describing in detail, the occurrences of Stephen's journey and his reactions towards them.

2

Firstly, Frayn highlights the fact that Stephen is alone and how this has created a different atmosphere in the journey that he has done before. The fact that there is 'uncertainty at the end', makes the passage strikingly tense **3** because it highlights how there are gaps in Stephen's knowledge of the mysterious game that he is playing.

4 Furthermore, he is unaware as to what the outcome will be which provides a sense of accumulating fear and anticipation for what will happen. Additionally, Frayn once **5** again mentions the nightmarish dream that Stephen experienced and suggests that the end is 'darkened by the lingering shadow of his dream', this is an unsettling image as it suggests that the outcome will be far more horrifying than Stephen can imagine. **6** The 'lingering shadow' is coming but it helps to emphasised the strong impact of Stephen's dream.

Additionally, Frayn's writing powerfully creates tension because he provides a short but detailed description of the Lanes and how

EXAMINER COMMENTS

- 1 By way of introduction, the candidate succinctly references the context of the passage.
- 2 The candidate focuses on the Question.
- 3 This shows understanding of the situation but the game needs a little explanation.
- 4 This shows understanding of the context and of the implications.
- 5 There is good focus on the Question here and passage here.
- 6 A perceptive comment on language.

Stephen responds to his surroundings. **7** The fact that Stephen is 'reeking of fear' emphasises how unnerved Stephen, (who is later known as Stefan Weitzler), but the 'reeking' is significant because **8** the fact that it is going on highlights the immediacy and his feelings at this moment. **9** Moreover, Frayn vividly conveys the children who 'watch Stephen as expressionlessly before', this helps to create a terrifying mass of children who silently watch Stephen. Furthermore, the silence **10** intensifies the tense atmosphere. The adverb 'expressionlessly' suggests that the children are unable to exhibit emotion and almost become a miniature army, whose main goal is to terrorize Stephen. **11**

In addition, Frayn's writing memorably creates a sense of unease by using intense sensory language to highlight Stephen's peculiar surrounding. The fact that there is 'the sour, defeated smell of the elders', is rather unnerving and suggests that Stephen's outcome will be similar to that of the 'defeated elders'. This provides a stench of failure, whilst **12** insinuating that there will no good outcome to Stephen's imagery. In addition, by utilising olfactory imagery, Frayn is attempting to engage all the sense of the reader and create the tension. This technique is consolidated further by the smell of 'human excrement on freshly turned soil'. This is rather disgusting but is important because it is a clue and an indicator to Stephen that he should keep going. **13**

Additionally, Frayn's writing vividly creates tension because he draws a contrast between Mrs Haylward's world and her descent when she enters the Barns. **14** The fact that Keith's mother's world has 'silver ornaments and silver chimes', alludes to the fact that she lives a comfortable, luxurious and pleasurable life style. However, her involvement with the man in the Barns, who we understand

EXAMINER COMMENTS

- 7 The answer focuses on the Question.
- 8 It is not clear what this comment in parenthesis contributes.
- 9 The candidate comments on the effect of language but does not go into the way in which the word 'reeks' appeals to the senses.
- 10 A close reading but the atmosphere of hostility might be made more of.
- 11 This comment shows understanding and some insight.
- 12 A more detailed comment on the effect of language which is very pertinent to the Question.
- 13 The significance of it being human excrement could be explored here.
- 14 An interesting cross-reference, but it is not clear yet what this contributes to the creation of tension.

to be Uncle Peter, means that she is going 'further down, into the underworld'. Mrs Hayward's descent is vividly described and the 'underworld' provides a stark contrast to the idealistic family setting that she is originally described in. **15** Furthermore the 'underworld' is the region of the dead in Greek and Roman literature where only the nastiest beings and monstrous creatures reside helps to highlight the tense moment. **16**

Moreover, Frayn powerfully uses the darkness as an enveloping entity that Stephen uses as a disguise. **17** The fact that Stephen knows 'his eyes' are 'watching' him creates an unnerving image of the young boy being closely watched as he makes his journey through the dark highlights how unsettled **18** and frightened Stephen feels thus creating tension. Furthermore, Frayn refers to 'his eyes' instead of announcing that it is Uncle Peter. This creates tension because it leads the **19** reader to anticipate who Mrs Hayward has been visiting even though we have formed an idea. Finally, the man whispers a 'single quiet word', the one word is immensely powerful **20** and conveys its importance and as it is 'Stephen', it highlights Stephen's role in the novel thus making it a tense moment.

To conclude, Frayn's writing memorably creates tension because he provides detailed descriptions that appealed to a variety of senses. Furthermore, he highlights the immense difference between the world of the Close, where the other characters live, and the Barns, where Uncle Peter resides. Finally, the mention of Stephen's name makes this point a climax and marks the tip of the mounting tension. **21**

EXAMINER COMMENTS

15 Relevant but not clearly related to the tension.

16 Also not clearly related to the tension.

17 The candidate refocuses on the question but the assertion that Stephen uses darkness as a disguise needs further explanation and support.

18 A good point.

19 There is understanding of the situation here.

20 A key point, though the comment on it could be developed. The candidate might perhaps have made more of the drama of the situation.

21 The candidate recognises that the passage ends on a cliff-hanger.

The candidate gives a fluent and detailed response to the whole passage and though there are occasional lapses in focus on the Question, there is very obvious knowledge of and engagement with the whole novel. There is also an effort to dig beneath the surface and to explore wider significances and implications and the candidate was clearly trying to explore deeper themes of the novel in the references to Mrs Hayward. There are some perceptive comments, for example about Stephen's dream and about the atmosphere of the Lanes. The candidate also shows understanding of the structure of the passage and though there might have been more reference to the drama of its ending there is a personal response to the climactic nature of it. This is a well shaped and confident piece of writing which shows awareness of the writer at work throughout.

Ways in which the answer could have been improved:

Though the answer is not perfect, for example there is a lack of a clear connection between the references to Mrs Hayward and the Underworld, it is very thorough and covers most of what a candidate might be expected to produce in the time available.

Question 19

19. Read this extract, and then answer the question that follows it:

The English Teacher by R K Narayan

How does Narayan movingly reveal Krishna's state of mind at this moment in the novel?

In this extract, which takes place a few days before Susila's death, Krishna is taking care of his sick wife, Susila, who has typhoid. Narayan movingly portrays Krishna's state of mind by describing his complete engagement in nursing Susila. **1**

Firstly, Narayan's portrayal of Krishna as a committed doctor captures the ease which he better felt as he felt useful for taking care of his ill wife. **2** In the phrase 'it produced an immense satisfaction in my mind', the writer vividly depicts a strange peace of mind and satisfaction entailed in nursing Susila. **3** At the beginning of the novel, Krishna had an inner turmoil and felt that there was something missing in his life and this careful nursing of his wife seems to complete this empty space. **4** Moreover, in the phrase 'this sickness seemed to bind us together', the writer illustrates Krishna's positive outlook on this illness by explaining **5** that typhoid reunited Krishna and Susila. The phrase entails an oxymoronic effect as something as negative and painful as an illness turns out to be positive as it joins both Krishna and his wife. In addition, **6** Narayan illustrates Krishna's transition to the second ashrama in his journey towards enlightenment by portraying Krishna as a family man, house-dweller and provider for his family since he was fully engaged in Susila's nursing.

EXAMINER COMMENTS

- 1 A relevant, brief introduction setting the scene and showing knowledge of context.
- 2 The candidate shows understanding of Krishna's motivation.
- 3 The candidate refers to the text in order to develop the point.
- 4 The candidate shows knowledge of context and understanding of character.
- 5 The candidate uses an apt reference to develop the point and makes a comment on the way the writing works.
- 6 This comment about Krishna's transition to the second ashrams assumes knowledge on the part of the reader and its relevance needs to be explained more clearly.

Moreover, Narayan pictures Krishna's obsession as his only objective in Susila's nursing. Krishna is devotes all of his time to taking care of Susila, illustrating an obsessed **7** state of mind. Narayan iterates the words 'lost' to give an idea of Krishna losing the track of time as he can no longer 'count days' neither is he in 'touch with the calendar'. **8** Narayan may even hint at Susila's upcoming transition into another plane of existence which will be an important loss for Krishna and will ironically make him be at a loss as well. **9** Furthermore, Narayan enhances Krishna's obsession by capturing his mechanical and monotonous routine which only consisted in taking care of Susila. In the phrase 'the same set of things in the same place', the iteration of the word 'same' **10** stresses the lack of variety and monotony That prevailed in Krishna's life as the latter was always nursing Susila in the same room. the writer also suggests that Susila's room has turned into a sickroom and Krishna has become a nurse, as if his house were a hospital. The writer further heightens the meaninglessness of time in Krishna's obsessed mindset **11** as 'hours passed with such rapidity', capturing the way in which time went by fast, without Krishna noticing so a he is obsessed in nursing.

Last, but not least, the author introduces the motif of letters to paint a light of hope in Krishna's mind. In the phrase 'it was my duty to drop them a card every day', the author pictures Krishna as a man who feels proud of his work as a nurse who takes care of his sick wife. This conveys **12** Krishna's pride, suggesting that he felt like a hero as he nursed Susila to hint at Krishna's hopeful mind he believed that his work would result in Susila's wellbeing. Moreover, the fact that Krishna received 'encouraging letters' and was constantly told that typhoid is 'only a question of nursing' adds up to this idea of hope and pride **13** Krishna positively looks onto this illness; denoting a sense of hope which encouraged him to continue

EXAMINER COMMENTS

- 7 The candidate makes a personal judgement about Krishna's behaviour.
- 8 The quotations clearly show Krishna's state of mind.
- 9 The implicatins for Krishna are clearly seen.
- 10 The candidate quotes relevantly and makes a little comment on language.
- 11 The candidate develops the exploration of Krishna's state of mind.
- 12 The passage is being closely examined here and Krishna's feelings are explored further.
- 13 This point would have been more successful if there had been a response to the word 'movingly' in the Question.

with his careful nursing schedule.

To conclude, Narayan movingly conveys Krishna's state of mind throughout this extract to picture another episode in Krishna's life that will add on to his journey of self-transformation. The fact that Krishna is fully committed in nursing is pivotal in his quest for his origins as it will make him develop patience, perseverance and effort; pivotal values in that will allow him to transcend through the different stages of life to achieve final renunciation. **14**

EXAMINER COMMENTS

14 A relevant general conclusion.

This is a clear and well developed piece of writing about the effect that Susila's illness has on Krishna and on his state of mind. There is obvious knowledge of the novel and understanding of the significance of the episode. The candidate works carefully through the extract and gives apt supporting reference for the points made. There is a little comment on the way that the writer uses language, for example, in the comments on the word 'same'. The answer is relevant, clear and well developed but lacks the key element of personal response and exploration of the effects of language.

Ways in which the answer could be improved:

Though there is some indirect response to Krishna and his predicament the candidate needs to focus the answer more tightly on the key word in the question, 'movingly', to show how Krishna's viewpoint and the language he uses adds to the emotional impact of the situation. The Question begins with 'how' and this is a clear indication that the language and imagery needs to be explored in more detail.

Question 21

21. Read this extract from *Tyres* (by Adam Thorpe), and then answer the question that follows it:

In what ways does Thorpe make this extract such a shocking depiction of life in war time?

In 'Tyres' Thorpe depicts the effects of war time life in a rural town of France, shockingly portraying the intense and subsequent misery this causes. 1 Thorpe categorises the Germans and shows how the conflict of war can influence even strong-willed moral compasses in a universal, unremarkable setting. 2

One shocking image of war that Thorpe creates is in the violence and images of death that are built up throughout the poem. The gruesome images get increasingly morbid from the beginning of the story when the narrator Raoul tells of his mother's coffin, and culminates at the end of the story in the startling death of Cécile.

3 One such image is when the 'guts were literally looped and ripping to the floor, ripped open by that brief burst of gunfire'. This image of violence is created by the use of active verbs 'lopped' and 'dripping' that conote rope 4 or string and being soaking wet, giving the striking impression that the guts were spilled out messily and wet with blood – a violent and shocking image. 5 Also the alliteration of 'brief burst' uses plosives to emphasise the violence of the 'gunfire' making a striking portrayal of the violence in war time.

6 The narrator himself gives a shocking impression of the violence in war time life when he says 'the darkest shadow of war – that of blood'. The use of a metaphor here portrays the fact that violence created darkness 7 in the community which conotes unhappiness and depression shockingly showing the reader that war time life was

EXAMINER COMMENTS

- 1 A focused and relevant introduction.
- 2 A general introduction which appears to be relevant but which needs more explanation and development.
- 3 A relevant start, showing knowledge of the whole story and understanding of the way the writing works.
- 4 The candidate begins to explore language.
- 5 Relevant but somewhat explanatory. the candidate needs to explore the use of individual words in detail rather than merely saying that they are 'active verbs'.
- 6 A relevant comment on the effect of language.
- 7 The metaphor might be explored in more detail but the candidate is commenting on the use of language and its effect.

pervaded by blood and gore. 8

Another way in which Thorpe create a shocking depiction of war time life is in his description of the inhuman treatment of the community in France and the effect of misery this has on the small town. 9 The fact that 'the body swayed in the wind' from a bridge 'over which the schoolchildren were forced to walk class by class' shows the atrocious nature of the local peoples' 10 treatment by the Germans. This is particularly shocking because of the fact that these are 'schoolchildren' who canote innocence and purity 11 contrasted and ruined by by the violent image of a 'body in the wind' which canotes death and lifelessness. This shockingly shows the reader the cruel treatment of those in the French community during war. These harsh conditions meant 'The atmosphere was terrible'. This use of a short sentence emphasise 12 the blunt statement and shows the effect of the violence in the town. Furthermore the fact that this atmosphere 'crept up the road and cast my father and I and most of our clients, into deep gloom'. Here Thorpe personifies the 'terrible atmosphere' by using the verb 'crept' which canotes a stealth and secrecy into the movement, conveying that it was sly and that the terrible atmosphere watched it creep in to people's lives secretly. 13 The fact that it cast a 'deep gloom' gives the impression that people were miserable because because 'gloom' canotes sadness whilst the polysyndeton 14 emphasises how many people were affected by this misery. Hence Thorpe shockingly depicts the morbidity that the inhumane treatment of the community caused in war time life. 15

A final way in which Thorpe shockingly depicts war time life is in the antagonising of the enemy that forces Raoul the protagonist to abandon his morals. The Germans are presented as cruel and antagonistic throughout for example when Raoul says the German

EXAMINER COMMENTS

- 8 This paragraph is completely focused on the writer's method and on the effects of language and imagery though it might explore how the lives of people and their feelings are affected by the violence.
- 9 A relevant point which is closer to the thrust of the question and develops the point established in the previous paragraph .
- 10 The candidate develops the point and gives a strong personal response.
- 11 A perceptive point.
- 12 The candidate sees how the writer's style works.
- 13 A sound and developed language point.
- 14 The use of the technical term does not add anything but the point is a sound one.
- 15 An interesting and insightful comment. Relevant and showing understanding.

was 'looming over my shoulder like a bat.' The use of the word 'looming' creates an ominous depiction of the German whilst the simile 'like a bat' gives the impression of him being evasive because of the connotations of a bat being difficult to see due to its dark colour.

16 This ominous description is echoed later when 'His black gloves did a little dance.' Thorpe repeats the idea of a 'black' colour attributed to the Germans which connotes evil and darkness, presenting the Germans as antagonistic. **17** Moreover the use of personification of the gloves doing 'a little dance' gives the impression of the Germans again being evasive and fast moving because a dance connotes pace. **18** This cruel portrayal of the **19** Germans is what shockingly forces Raoul to abandon his moral compass that we glean from the beginning of the story when his father taught him to always ensure the tyre is safely attached to the car. Therefore when he 'shaved its rubber' (in reference to the tyre) the reader is shocked by his abandoning **20** of his father's teachings so that when he confesses 'I could hardly stop my hands from trembling' the reader is unsurprised by his intense fear. This fear is shown by the verb 'trembling' which connotes a shaking of his hand, showing the reader that he is scared by his action **21** as it goes against his morals taught to him by his Protestant father when he was a boy. Thus the reader is shocked by Raoul's actions which go against his morals and glean that the conflict and antagonism of the Germans forced him to take such drastic action, shockingly depicting the consequences of war in rural life. **22**

Overall, Thorpe shockingly depicts life in war time France by gruesomely describing the theme of death. The treatment of the people by the antagonised Germans is shocking for the reader and causes great misery in the rural town which surprisingly forces this protagonist to abandon his moral compass from his youth. Hence, the reader is shocked by the horrifying depiction of life in war-time France. **23**

EXAMINER COMMENTS

16 The idea of the threat represented by the German is captured though the notion of a bat showing 'evasiveness' is a little tenuous. Other sinister associations such as bats and vampires might have been mentioned and 'looming' might have been commented on in more detail.

17 The Germans are in control. 'Antagonistic' does not seem quite the right word.

18 'Evasive' does not seem to be quite the right word here, either.

19 A relevant point but what follows does not really get to the heart of why Raoul feels impelled to sabotage the German's tyre.

20 A relevant response.

21 There is some loss of focus on the terms of the Question here.

22 This comment re-focuses the answer on the Question.

23 A brief but relevant conclusion.

EXAMINER COMMENTS

The candidate knows and understands the story and focuses on the terms of the question 'a shocking depiction of life in war-time' throughout, though towards the end of the answer there is a little loss of control of the material. Nevertheless, the answer maintains relevance throughout, it shows understanding of some of the implications of the story and it makes some response to language, though perhaps it concentrates more than necessary of the gruesomeness of the image of the three bodies. It is a well developed response to the question.

Ways in which the answer might be improved:

Though there is reasonable coverage of the passage, particularly the first paragraph, some important points are missed, such as the 'mortal fear' that is instilled in the populace of the village, the effect on the children of viewing the corpse of Petit Ours, and the long-term effect on Raoul ('A few years later...I all but burst into tears.'). The German Officer might also have been dealt with more fully, and the contrast between his normal everyday behaviour and that of him as conqueror was worthy of more detailed comment. The candidate could have explored the irony of the way in which people are change by war and how a new normality emerges. The image of the bat is somewhat under-explored. Though there is a consistent attempt to comment on the writing, some points are more successful than others.

Question 22

22. Explore the ending of one story which the writer makes particularly surprising for you.

From *Stories of Ourselves*

In the short story, 'the People Before' by Maurice Shadbolt, throughout different themes, symbols, the importance of the setting developed throughout the story it makes the ending particularly surprising for me. **1**

To begin with, the narrator in the story has always been a replica of his father, which this ends up affecting him later on in his life, showed at the ending of the short story. He admits he 'wouldn't have traded him for another father' and also that he liked working the land, since he knew it was important for him (the father), though, he respected that. So, in these ways, we understand that he likes being a mirror of his father, and the father was proud of him. As he respected him, **2** he had a lot of self control in the things he said and do, and this is shown when he says 'If I could have done so without upsetting my father'. **3**

However, Jim for the father was a 'losing battle' that 'he had accepted his defeat'. **4** The theme of relationship between fathers and sons is illustrated in looking at the relationship Jim and him had. Jim was a more sensitive person, in comparison with his brother and while the father and the brother were working the land he could connect with it, but in a spiritual way. This is ironic since we would think that the more time you spent with the land

EXAMINER COMMENTS

- 1 A short but relevant general introduction showing that the candidate is focusing on the Question.
- 2 The candidate knows the whole story and understands the importance of the father to his son.
- 3 The point is developed with a relevant quotation.
- 4 The relevance of this idea is not entirely clear so far but the candidate is attempting to see below the surface of the story in commenting on themes.

5 the more you connect, but is not that way. There is also a huge comparison between the father and Jim that shows that the father 'was characteristic of him not to look back' as where Jim was very interested and involved with the Maori culture and its symbols. This shows that little by little this culture kept on Jim's heart, even he manages to think about them when facing death in the world war two, where his brother was there as well. 6

Furthermore, in this story Jim gets to find his own identity and see himself identified with the Maoris. The final lines of this short story are very moving, 7 surprising and shocking. This situation is triggered when the brother asked Jim if he thought about anything in the war, while Jim responded to these by the mention of the Maoris that had come to the land when they were little, and that is what keep him alive when facing death. 8 A comparison is shown here since the brother couldn't think about anything, as opposed to Jim. There is a moment of realisation, an epiphany of the narrator shown when it says 'I had a sharp pain.' 9 In the quote 'I felt the dismay of a long distance runner'. The choice of diction of the word 'dismay' adds a very negative connotation to the narrator's feelings. Also, another important quote is when it mentions that 'I have been robbed of something that was rightfully mine'. This 'something' may stand for goals in life, identity, 10 and that it's have been robbed, we can infer that maybe by Jim who don't even work hard with his father in the land as he did. Finally, the last phrase 'I don't 11 think I'll ever forgive him' is very shocking and surprising at the same time. He could be talking about the father because of not realising all this time by trying to please his father he missed the chance of develop his own identity, as Jim did 12 or this phrase could also be addressed to Jim since in his epiphany he feels infinite anger, and jealousy towards him because of

EXAMINER COMMENTS

- 5 The relationship between the father and the land and how the sons relate to it is a theme of the story but this is not clearly explained here. At this point the direction of the answer is not clear.
- 6 The relevance of this point is not clear. It would be helped by some reference to the visit from the Maoris and the effect that it had on the sons over a long period.
- 7 This shows understanding of the narrator and knowledge of the story but the link with the Maoris is still not made clear. The candidate misses the opportunity to comment on the significance of that visit.
- 8 The point needs clarification but the candidate shows knowledge of the story and of the effect of the visit on the narrator.
- 9 This is a useful comment and supporting quotation but its relevance to the Question needs to be made clearer. Why is it surprising?
- 10 The candidate uses relevant material here but again needs to relate it to the Question.
- 11 A direct response to the Question.
- 12 The candidate begins to develop the point.

the lost undeveloped identity he'll now never get.

In conclusion, through the themes of Fathers and sons, familiar relationships, the search of one's identity, the Maori symbols, irony and carefully chosen vocabulary, Maurice Shadbolt manages to make the ending of 'The People Before' so shocking, surprising for the readers. 13 Also it leaves us a huge message that we should never let someone or something prevent us from developing our identity, because our identity is what makes us unique and different from others and is the more valuable thing we need to protect from disappearing.

EXAMINER COMMENTS

- 13 The candidate draws the ideas to a conclusion and makes a direct personal response, though 'surprising' is perhaps understated.

Though the ideas are not always clearly expressed, the candidate focuses on the question for most of the answer and the answer becomes stronger as it goes along. A common and unproductive way of dealing with this sort of question is for candidates to narrate the whole story before mentioning the ending and this candidate wisely focuses on themes such as the relationships within the family and 'the search for an identity'. Though the development of the argument is somewhat tentative the candidate obviously knows the story well and is able to quote accurately, though the opportunity is missed to show the different effects of the visit from the Maoris on the father and the two sons and how this contributes to the idea of identity and is so significant in the story. The surprise of the ending is therefore somewhat under-stated and the argument is not entirely clear.

Ways in which the answer might be improved:

The candidate has valid ideas but needs to develop them thoroughly and consistently. There is an attempt at personal interpretation and exploration of the effects on the narrator, however. The contrast between the attitudes of the two brothers and that of the father might have been explored more fully and also the implications for their futures. Though the candidate focuses on the search for identity s/he needs to make clearer how this is tied to the attitudes to ownership of the land and what the relevance of the Maoris - and the title of the story - has to this.

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