

**Pearson Edexcel International GCSE 4ETO/01
Pearson Edexcel Certificate KETO/01**

**English Literature
Paper 1
Section A: Drama**

The purpose of this pack is to provide centres with marked exemplars of responses to the January 2014 examination.

Included in this pack:

- Questions from January 2014 paper
- Marked responses
- Examiner commentary

Question 11: *Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck

11 Either

(a) Explore the role and character of Candy in this novel.

OR

(b) How does Steinbeck use different settings in this novel to convey his themes?

(Total for Question 11 = 30 marks)

Question 11(a)

Candidate A

Candy is a very old and fragile ~~man~~ man, he also has one arm from having an accident where he worked. Candy shared the bunk house with a few of his workmen, including ~~of~~ George and Lennie at the ranch. He lived there with his dog, who was old and smelly. All the workmen used to moan about how ~~smell~~ the dog ~~smell~~ stank. Carlson mentions to Candy how he should just shoot the old dog, and Slim will give you one of his. Candy felt very pressured into having his dog shot. But had no choice. Candy curled up into a ball ~~on~~ on his bed whilst Carlson took the dog outside and shot

him, then all you heard was a loud bang, which made Candy jump, then he started to cry ~~out~~ quietly.

Candidate A cont.

Commentary

The answer is focused on Candy, but lacks development. A basic and limited account of Candy's character and role reflects some simple knowledge and understanding. It offers a little discussion of his relationships with the other men on the ranch. Some personal engagement is implicit in the answer, for example 'he started to cry quietly' at the end of the answer.

Mark: Level 1, 4

Question 11(a)

Candidate B

In John Steinbeck's novel 'Of Mice and Men', the character of Candy plays an ~~on~~ provides the novel with issues that made people can understand.

Firstly, when we are introduced to Candy in this novel, he is separated from the other workmen and is on his own. This shows the reader a level of exclusion he has compared to other workmen. It is noticed of him that he ~~is~~ is in fact older than people on the ranch, so he is unable to help and participate with various duties.

Also, Candy provides the novel with his strong metaphors and various foreshadowing moments. First, as Candy was ~~more~~ more secluded from the other

Candidate B cont.

men, he relied on the company of his dog. Once the dog was no longer there, Candy's character He Showed Strong passion for this dog, and this Relationship was a comparison for the ~~set~~ friendship George and Lennie had. By taking the dog away (killing it). Candy is left alone, and voices his regret to George saying, "I Should have shot that dog myself." This is a moment where his words are key to the unfoldings of the novel.

On the other hand, Candy is a symbol for the discrimination that exists from people. As Candy is old and only has one hand, he is considered less worthy than the other men. Due to this, his character is left lonely and unable to participate in daily duties. His hand disability means he is only able to do selected jobs; this can also foreshadow the point that once someone/something has been used beyond its uses, it no longer is thought to be important.

Furthermore, Candy is a character of a good nature, and he also is a

Candidate B cont.

Character with hope Once he hears about the dream George and Lennie have, he starts considering the option of leaving the ranch and being a part of something with people that would appreciate his role. When Candy is given the opportunity to experience this dream, all his thoughts are towards making it a reality.

~~Similarity Smart~~ Similar to this, the role of Candy is also to provide the novel with a character that is vulnerable, yet will hold his head high and be strong.

Candy knows that he is old and not of great use to the ranch - yet he still does his best each day to co-operate. After his dog is taken, he does ~~become~~ remorse about him, yet he finds a new objection to provide him with a stable view on his life. This trait is noticeable and key during the novel, as it symbolises the attitude that someone should always take on life, no matter what situation they may find themselves in.

Another element of Candy's character is the emotional ~~and~~ side. When he

Candidate B cont.

discovers the body of Curley's wife and is left with it, he says the words, "Poor bastard". Although he is with a woman who has just died and is peering down at her corpse, he says the words as if they are meant for someone else. This shows the level of concern Candy had for Lennie; even though he has just murdered someone he still believes that he is vulnerable and ~~deserves to be~~ does not deserve the actions of his past and the fate of his shortened future.

To conclude, Candy's character is one that is highlighted for his caring personality and his key moments that provide foreshadowing for the novel.

Commentary

This is a thorough answer in its consideration of the character of Candy and his role. The candidate makes clear points related to knowledge of the texts and explains them with confidence e.g. 'This shows the reader a level of exclusion he has compared to other workmen.' There are references to Steinbeck's literary techniques in his creation of Candy, such as foreshadowing, though development of these varies. The answer sustains relevance and therefore meets Level 4 criteria.

Mark: Level 4, 21

Question 11(b)

Candidate C

Steinbeck sets most of the novel in the ranch as the story was set during the Great depression where ~~anyone~~ knew one had any money and had to travel miles to find work. Lenny, George and the other ranch workers had to share bunk houses during their work. They would leave when they had enough money to live the "American dream" which was buying a house for themselves and have a farm where Lenny can "tend the rabbits" and "live of the fatty land".

Another theme was loneliness this is conveyed when "Curley's wife" is alone throughout most of the story saying "She gets so lonely, with know one to talk to but Curley". This part of the story was set in the barn where she spent a lot of time alone and tells Lenny when he comes to join her how she ~~can't~~ ~~any~~ wants to be a "big hollywood actress" and how a man told her she could be but her mom wouldn't ~~allow~~.

Candidate C cont.

let her. During the time of the novel women were hugely ~~be~~ discriminated against. They were owned by their husbands, ~~were not~~ allowed to do a lot and where stay at home ~~as~~ wives. This is put across more as the settings she's in are lonely with know one else around.

At the end of the story ~~nothing~~ is set in the woods by a lake, just George and Lenny, the ending shows sadness and continues around ~~is~~ the Great depression time and conveys how George and Lenny where not close to the American dream and harsh reality of the story as George realises he has to kill Lenny. George, Lenny and Candy's dream wouldn't come true. The setting also shows the hard times of the Great depression, so you can understand more what it would of been like.

Commentary

The answer writes about the novel's setting using some knowledge and understanding. It makes reference to The Great Depression and considers the importance of the barn in showing Curley's wife's loneliness and the importance of having a place of one's own to the dreams of Lennie and George. The last paragraph is focused on the loss of the dream and is only partially relevant to the idea of setting.

Mark: Level 2, 8

Question 11(b)

Candidate D

In the novel 'Of Mice and Men' Steinbeck evolves different settings to convey the themes of loneliness, dreams, friendship and death.

Steinbeck clarifies several different settings to determine the reality of the American Dream and the senses and setting that of that the characters determine.

Steinbeck uses the imagery of animals to foreshadow the events that later occur.

The beautiful imagery of the beginning chapter sets off with a tranquil scenery with everything just fine. The tranquil imagery of the beginning chapter really contrasts to the ^{reader} audience how perfect everything is. Steinbeck uses a snake slithering to emphasise Lennie and the occurrences that later happen in the book.

Furthermore towards the end of the book

this the snake emphasises Lennie's character and the theme of death that soon evolves.

Steinbeck greatly uses the imagery to suggest Lennie's character and his relation to animals to prepare to the reader that later something devastating will happen to him.

However, the theme of death and ~~and~~ tragic

Candidate D cont.

happenings repeatedly occur. The use of the ~~mention~~ ³ rattling of the halter chains as seen from the beginning of the book, propulsively repeats throughout. Every setting requires this sense of noise and ~~poor~~ a tragic occurrence always prospers after it. Conclusively this suggests the theme of death and poor happenings and highlights to the audience the unfortunate times throughout the 'Great Depression' and how even the innocence of some of the characters deal with such horrific mishappenings.

Hence the theme of death, Steinbeck also portrays to the audience the shatter of the dreams and how different characters take advantage of this. For example Curley's wife who is of no name and status foreshadows ~~from~~ the chapter and setting of the bunkhouse which gleams with light and hope. ^{4b} Blocking the light in the doorway contradicts to the reader the metaphorical emphasis between light and dark and how this lady of no name and status, is a barrier to the men in the bunkhouse by provoking attention, to intentionally ruin all their dreams and hope.

On the other hand Steinbeck portrays at the end of the novel a setting which obstructs to the theme of dreams, friendship, loneliness and death. The idyllic scene soon

Candidate D cont.

predatory when the events earlier in the book foreshadow the events that now are revealed. In result to Lennie's death the setting ~~all~~ most determines this unfortunate happening. The setting contrasts to the first setting to a tranquil and beautiful scene with yet again the metaphor of the darkness and nature turning against itself in the ~~second~~ ^{end}. 'Snake killed' and the 'brush of leaves are brown' result in an ending that the cyclical structure is performed. Consequently this performs to the ~~other~~ reader even the innocent and admiring beginning soon comes to an end.

The theme of loneliness is also performed at the end with the setting peaceful and Lennie ~~both~~ George now alone and lonely from Lennie's death. The predatory setting results in George now departing from his best friend is now reassured him into loneliness and the failure of his dreams with Lennie.

Furthermore Steinbeck also alters the theme of friendship by this setting. For example the beginning of their chapter on their own, cheerful and content is then repeated at the end when their on their own. "Look at the trees and water" represents George's

Candidate D cont.

honour and friendship to Lennie by admiring the scenery to forget his death. This explores the setting may be predatory but their friendship is always declared.

In conclusion, Steinbeck uses different settings in the novel to convey his themes to show the setting depends on a purpose of loneliness, death, friendship and dreams and that the cyclical structure soon comes to an end. Steinbeck antagonises to the audience the idyllic setting alters hope and success and the 'American Dream' is fate but soon determines to the reader the unfortunate times and even the innocent lose the battle by alternatively creating a tragic setting.

Commentary

The answer is sound in its consideration of different settings, relating these to the novel's themes and characters with secure knowledge and understanding. The question tends to focus on imagery rather than setting and there are examples where expression obscures meaning. On the whole, however, textual support is well integrated and apposite in application e.g. reference to the 'rattling of the halter chains'. A sense of argument is developed and there is a personal interpretation in the points chosen, such as the paragraph relating to Curley's wife blocking out the light. However, links are only partially made and the reader has to work quite hard to decipher meaning. Although knocking on the door of Level 4, the answer only achieves the top of Level 3 as it is insufficiently clear to be thorough.

Mark: Level 3, 18