

***Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck**

**Edexcel Certificate KET0/01**

**Edexcel International GCSE 4ET0/01**

**English Literature**

**Paper 1: Drama and Prose**

**Section B: Prose**

The purpose of this pack is to provide centres with the question paper, mark scheme and a set of exemplars with commentaries.

Included in this pack:

- Question from Summer 2012 paper
- Marked scripts with the mark and band
- Examiner commentary and mark scheme

## **Of Mice and Men, John Steinbeck**

### **EITHER**

(a) Show how the characters of Candy and Crooks are presented in this novel.

### **OR**

(b) Explore the importance of friendship in *Of Mice and Men*.

**(Total for Question 11 = 30 marks)**

**Candidate A response to part (a)**

**16 marks**

~~A theme of harshness and loneliness~~  
Themes of harshness and loneliness are presented throughout the novel *Of Mice And Men*. Particularly through the two characters that I am going to discuss in this essay. The word harshness has connotations of evil, unfair and unnecessary actions, towards another human being in this case. I think loneliness plays a very big part throughout this novel, as everyone would appear to be in one way or another, lonely. Candy and Crooks are two characters that I feel experience ~~these two~~ and suffer from these two factors the most in the novel.

To begin, Crooks <sup>is</sup> a black guy on a white guys ranch, which now wouldn't be a problem but unfortunately for Crooks he lived ~~at~~ a very racist time <sup>in America</sup>. Through-out the novel we see Crooks being treat as

a reject/an outsider. Forced to live in the stables on his own, he isn't allowed to mix with the white guys. 'Just a nigger' This quote ~~now~~ represents the disrespect that the white men, <sup>on the ranch</sup> especially Curley have for Crooks. The word 'just' ~~to~~ gives us the ~~same~~ impression that no one really even appreciates Crooks' existence <sup>or importance</sup> on the ranch. The quote gives the impression that Curley thinks it is a norm and completely acceptable to say what ~~he~~ <sup>he</sup> likes and wants to Crooks simply because he is 'just a nigger'.

Candy also spends his time alone, with only his 'useless' dog for company. Candy and his dog are often compared to each other as they are both old, smelly and 'pretty damn' useless. George says 'that dog ain't no good to nobody, no good to itself'. This quote shows how unnecessary ~~many~~ <sup>the</sup> people on the ranch see Candy's dog's life. However his dog is all that Candy really has. The theme of loneliness and harshness are very strongly shown through this character. Later in the novel Candy's dog is shot.

Leaving Candy alone. <sup>The friendship</sup> ~~friendship~~ which he shared with his old dog was taken away, this represents the low level of care the men on the ranch have along with the high level of harshness and loneliness.

Crooks is one character I feel great sympathy for throughout. When some of the other guys on the ranch are speaking about Crooks we find out the harsh reality of ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> loneliness. Crooks is represented as a reject in the novel. 'beat up at Christmas' The word 'beat' shows <sup>the</sup> great ~~dispre~~ disrespect people had ~~for~~ black people throughout the Great Depression. Crooks got his name through this tragic incident, which he unfortunately ~~g~~ left him with a Crooked back.

Crooks seems very content and ~~at~~ ~~peace~~ treats his loneliness as a norm. <sup>It would seem it would seem</sup> he may know no different. ~~He~~ <sup>He</sup> begins to treat the men on the ranch with the disrespect they give him. However when paid a visit by Lennie he turns him away, <sup>not knowing that</sup> ~~unknowingly~~ Lennie would know no different. Lennie would treat Crooks ~~like equality~~ ~~the~~

In conclusion both Crooks and Candy are presented to be very lonely, deserted guys. I feel a great amount of sympathy for both characters as the harshness in the time of the great depression ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> very much out of their hands. Both treat as rejects and outsiders unable to properly mix with the white community on the ranch.

**Examiner summary:**

*The answer engages with the question and characters on a personal level and develops a response that deals soundly with the writer's craft. An example of this is the exploration of the word 'just' when considering the treatment of Crooks. Details are used well and each paragraph focuses on the characters. Some points are recycled but there are some well-integrated quotations and engagement is sound. A clear balance between the two characters is evident in the response.*

**Level this response achieves in the mark scheme:**

Level	Mark	A01/A02/A04
Level 3	13-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sound knowledge and understanding of the text evident in the response</li><li>• Comments about the writer's use of characterisation/theme/plot/setting for literary effect show sound appreciation of the writer's craft</li><li>• Engagement with the text is sound, examples used are clearly relevant</li><li>• Where response requires consideration of two or more features, a clear balance is evident</li></ul>

## Of Mice and Men, John Steinbeck

Candidate B response to part(a)

7 marks

In the play 'Of Mice and men' which John Steinbeck wrote was set in the 1940's when there was a bad depression. The play is based on a ranch and the two main characters are called George and Lennie. Lennie gets him and George kicked off a ranch in Soledad for feeling a girl's dress which they then move to one in Weed.

In the play Candy is presented as being old. The ~~the~~ only job he has to do is clean the ranch because he is seen as being disabled because he only has one hand.

In the play people on the ranch respect him for what he does. George begins to like

and gets to know him better when he joins his and Lennie's dream.

Crooks is seen as being nice but he has his own room away from everyone else because he is black. Curley's wife is extremely horrible to him. "I don't like you, you nigger I could get you strung up if I wanted to."

Getting him "strung up" suggests that if she really wanted to she could get him ~~strung~~ hung and kill him.

Crooks is disengaged from the group and <sup>they</sup> make him do his own things. If Curley feels threatened by him he would just try and beat them up but with Crooks instead he just threatens him with death and is very racist towards him. "Don't get on the wrong side of me nigger you don't know what could happen." This implies that if Crooks steps one foot out of line then Curley could do whatever



he wanted with him.

Gandy is seen as being disabled because he's got a bad back and only one hand. The book presents him as this to make him feel like an outcast where he only has his dog as a friend but when that dies he becomes very lonely.

Also Crooks is seen as an outcast because no-one treats him as they would if he was white but just because he's black they never talk to him which makes him probably the loneliest person on the ranch.

**Examiner summary:**

*The answer demonstrates a partial engagement with the text. The introduction lacks relevance to the question and the overall approach is general and lacking development but there is some knowledge and understanding. Some points are repeated and engagement with the text is only partially relevant. The answer does enough to reach the bottom of Level 2.*

**Level this response achieves in the mark scheme:**

Level	Mark	A01/A02/A04
Level 2	7-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some knowledge and understanding of the text evident in the response</li><li>• Comments about the writer's use of characterisation/theme/plot/setting for literary effect show some appreciation of the writer's craft</li><li>• Engagement with the text is basic, examples used are of partial relevance</li><li>• Where response requires consideration of two or more features, partial balance is evident</li></ul>

The friendship in *Mice and men* is going well during the film, they all work together and get on with each other without any arguments at all, but during the film, friendship collapses and many men fall out and some take it to far, such as George. George is the one that messes all of the friendship relation up. By taking things to far and can't handle himself and doesn't think about anyone else but himself. He is obsessed with mice and keeps them in his pocket. All he ever wants to do is pet animals. In the ranch there is puppies that the dog had given. George was for ever wanting to pet one, but nobody would

him because they knew how rough he was being with mice. he's so strong with them, but he doesn't think that so through the film George and <sup>Curley</sup>~~Candy~~ begin a fight, but George didn't want to fight so he stood there and <sup>Curley</sup> had taken all of the punches that <sup>Curley</sup>~~Candy~~ was giving him, but then Lennie had told George to fight back, but George didn't want to hurt him, so at the end George had given up taking all the punches so he catches <sup>Curley's</sup>~~Candy's~~ hand and crunches it till his bones had been crushed. Crooks had bandaged <sup>Curley's</sup>~~Candy's~~ hand up, so then <sup>Curley</sup>~~Candy~~ had made an excuse up and said he had trapped it in the machine. ~~ge~~ later on George had been permission to pet one puppy in the stables, George then got to excited and had petted the pup too hard which then had killed the dog. George had dug the pup up in the stables and covered it all up with inside the hay that was there.

Curley's wife had ~~waited~~ walked in on George and had seen the dead Pop. She asked George what had happened so she he explained what had gone off. He said to Curley's wife is that's all he wanted to do was pet the dog. So Curley's wife let George pet her hair because that way he couldn't kill anything. While ~~as~~ George was petting Curley's wife's hair ~~he~~ she told him to stop, but George didn't. She Curley's wife started to panic but while she was panicking George was getting scared and ~~it~~ was pulling her ~~to~~ hair tighter and tighter, but then he ragged her hair and snapped her neck which then killed her too. Curley had found out that she was dead, but George ~~and~~ had already ran off. Lennie went off to find him, but at the end they had found each other. Lenny ~~wanted to~~ didn't want to shoot him because he had promised to George's Auntie that he'll bring George back.

lennie then heard curley and all the others coming and he knew that they was going to kill him. So as goerge turned his back at lennie, lennie had shot him in the back and killed him before the others would torture him.

**Examiner summary:**

*This is a limited response which relies heavily on narrative and demonstrates some misunderstanding. Some useful information is selected as part of the narrative approach but this is of limited relevance.*

**Level this response achieves in the mark scheme:**

Level	Mark	A01/A02/A04
Level 1	1-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limited knowledge and understanding of the text evident in the response</li><li>• Comments about the writer's use of characterisation/theme/plot/setting for literary effect show limited appreciation of the writer's craft</li><li>• Engagement with the text is basic, examples used are of limited relevance</li><li>• Where response requires consideration of two or more features, limited balance is evident</li></ul>