

GCSE English Language  
5EN2H/01

Of Mice and Men  
Higher Tier

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

The individual documents can be found on our website at [www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com)

Included in this pack:

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

## *Of Mice and Men*

### **Extract taken from Section 5.**

He looked down at her, and carefully he removed his hand from over her mouth, and she lay still. 'I don't want ta hurt you,' he said, 'but George'll be mad if you yell.' When she didn't answer nor move he bent closely over her. He lifted her arm and let it drop. For a moment he seemed bewildered. And then he whispered in fright, 'I done a bad thing.' 'I done another bad thing.'

He pawed up the hay until it partly covered her.

From outside the barn came a cry of men and the double clang of shoes on metal. For the first time Lennie became conscious of the outside. He crouched down in the hay and listened. 'I done a real bad thing,' he said. 'I shouldn't of did that. George'll be mad. An' ... he said ... an' hide in the brush till he come. He's gonna be mad. In the brush till he come. Tha's what he said.' Lennie went back and looked at the dead girl. The puppy lay close to her. Lennie picked it up. 'I'll throw him away,' he said. 'It's bad enough like it is.' He put the pup under his coat, and he crept to the barn wall and peered out between the cracks, toward the horseshoe game. And then he crept around the end of the last manger and disappeared.

The sun streaks were high on the wall by now, and the light was growing soft in the barn. Curley's wife lay on her back, and she was half covered with hay.

It was very quiet in the barn, and the quiet of the afternoon was on the ranch. Even the clang of the pitched shoes, even the voices of the men in the game seemed to grow more quiet. The air in the barn was dusky in advance of the outside day. A pigeon flew in through the open hay door and circled and flew out again. Around the last stall came a shepherd bitch, lean and long, with heavy, hanging dugs. Halfway to the packing box where the puppies were she caught the dead scent of Curley's wife, and the hair rose along her spine. She whimpered and cringed to the packing box, and jumped in among the puppies.

Curley's wife lay with a half-covering of yellow hay. And the meanness and the plannings and the discontent and the ache for attention were all gone from her face. She was very pretty and simple, and her face was sweet and young. Now her rouged cheeks and her reddened lips made her seem alive and sleeping very lightly. The curls, tiny little sausages, were spread on the hay behind her head, and her lips were parted.

As happens sometimes, a moment settled and hovered and remained for much more than a moment. And sound stopped and movement stopped for much, much more than a moment.

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## Of Mice and Men – Higher Tier – part (a)

5 Answer all parts of the following question.

- (a) Explore how the language in the extract influences your view of what takes place after the death of Curley's wife.

You **must** include examples of language features in your response.

(16)

### Script 1 response to part (a)

#### Band 4 – 10 marks

a. In this extract Steinbeck uses lots of different types of language to influence our view of what takes place after Curley's wife's death. He firstly makes us feel that time has come to a stop after this terrible event. He shows us this with personifying time with the quote 'a moment settled and hovered and remained for much more than a moment'. Steinbeck also uses the quote 'And sound stopped and movement stopped for much, much more than a moment'.

Steinbeck also uses lots of clever language to show how weird this moment is. He uses lots of describing words such as 'It was very quiet in the barn, and ~~was~~ the quiet of the afternoon was on the ranch'. This is strange because the ranch is normally a busy place. It is also weird by the way Curley's wife is lying there dead 'She caught the dead scent of Curley's dead wife and her hair rose along her spine'.

Steinbeck also shows us that the moment is slightly scary. He does with the way the barn becomes quiet. 'It was very quiet inside the barn'. He also presents the idea with describing of how the night is coming and everything is becoming dark. 'By the air in the barn was dusky'.

In this extract <sup>Steinbeck</sup> ~~Steinbeck~~ also shows us that this moment was ~~supposed~~ meant to be and things were ~~supposed~~ supposed to be like this. He shows with the way everything is done. He shows us how peaceful everything is 'seemed to grow quiet'. He also does this when he describes the sunset 'The light was growing soft inside the barn'. The word 'soft' making it more peaceful. He also makes us feel it was supposed to be like this with the way he describes Curley's wife looking peaceful and layed out beautifully with her <sup>face</sup> ~~hair~~ 'sheet and young' and ways she <sup>like</sup> ~~like~~ looks. She is 'sleeping very lightly'.

Steinbeck in this extract also makes us see that Curley's wife is too young to be dead and she was really only a lovely person. He does this with descriptions such as 'And the meanness and the plannings and the discontent and the ache for attention were all gone from her face' showing she was lovely after all. Steinbeck

Shows her being young with ~~and~~ ~~also~~ ~~the~~ language such as 'pretty and simple' and 'young and smart'

Steinbeck also influences are view on how quiet the world has become in this one prolonged moment. He use phrases such as 'sound stopped' and also the way even the men playing outside, who have no idea of what's happened grow quiet 'even the voices of the men in the game seemed to grow quiet'

Steinbeck also influences are view in ~~what~~ that everything seems so slow and prolonged.

He does this in way he stat everything that is described happens in a 'moment'. He also ~~des~~ this by the way no one has ~~also~~ discovered what is going on in this 'moment'.

#### Examiner summary:

*This is a well-developed response which shows sufficient assurance in the language comments to move it into the lower end of Band 4.*

#### Band this response achieves in the mark scheme:

4	10-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assured understanding of the text</li><li>• Assured understanding of the writer's ideas</li><li>• Assured understanding of how the writer uses language</li><li>• Pertinent reference to the extract to support response.</li></ul>
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**To move up to the next band:** This response needs to explain in more detail and with more perceptiveness the effectiveness of the writer's use of language. More discriminating references to the extract would also help move this response into the next band.

Script 2 response to part (a)

Band 5 – 16 marks

a) The language in this extract is used by Steinbeck to grant Wyley's Wife an honourable death. Throughout the novel she has been viewed as a danger to the workers and was therefore avoided. However, now she is to be viewed in a contrasting way after death.

Steinbeck uses language such as 'bewildered', 'whispered in fright' in the first paragraph to describe Lennie's initial reaction. 'Bewildered' for example creates a tense atmosphere, as Steinbeck is delaying Lennie's reaction to the death by playing on his mental disability. The audience is eager to know what Lennie will do, and Steinbeck answers this after delaying it by using language such as 'whispered in fright' to portray the fear and confusion that Lennie is experiencing with his mind working overtime.

Steinbeck also utilizes animation by describing Lennie as having 'paved' up the hay. The use of this

creates the idea of panic and confusion that a frightened animal may go through in such an instance. This creates tension and the concept of urgency for the reader.

Lennie also repeats several words and phrases such as how 'George'll be mad'. This reminds the reader of Lennie's real underlying fear that he will not be able to 'tend the rabbits'. This ~~is~~ also illustrates the father-son relationship between George and Lennie, as Lennie fears he will be told off like a child. This is ironic, since Lennie is a huge person. Therefore, by using projection such as this, the author is communicating to the audience that Lennie is not really to blame as he does not know his own strength.

Language such as 'disappeared' was used by Steinbeck to depict Lennie as an evil ~~murderer~~ criminal who is trying to escape from everybody's ~~at~~ sight. This is a juxtaposition to the previous repetition, and by ending with such language, Steinbeck illustrates the extent of the very punishable crime Lennie has committed.

The description of the dog is powerful and influential as Curley's Wife so far has not been presented as the most likable of characters. However, by determining that the dog 'whimpered' and 'cried', Steinbeck is trying to

communicate a sense of grief and sorrow for her death. The dog's reaction is almost personified as the way a mother or father might protect and grieve for the loss.

The final description of Wyley's Wife is very powerful. 'Ache for attention' sums up Wyley's Wife well, and by removing it finally from her character, Steinbeck is allowing the reader to see a contrasting side of her, whilst still reminding the audience that this was ultimately her downfall.

Previously, Wyley's Wife has been depicted as a complex, craving character but now she has been described as 'simple' and 'sleeping very lightly'. This all depicts the concept of innocence and creates a sense of regret for her death in the reader.

To conclude, this language is very powerful to manipulate the reader's views on both Lennie and Wyley's Wife. The final paragraph makes the whole extract more eminent however due to the repetition of 'moment', implying that Wyley's Wife's death happened whilst it seemed time stood still.

**Examiner summary:**

*The candidate shows perceptive understanding of the writer's ideas and use of language as seen in the extract. It uses discriminating references to the extract to support the detailed response.*

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

5	14-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Perceptive understanding of the text</li><li>• Perceptive understanding of the writer's ideas</li><li>• Perceptive understanding of how the writer uses language</li><li>• Discriminating reference to the extract to support response.</li></ul>
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This response receives full marks.

## Of Mice and Men – Higher Tier – part (b)

(b) This extract shows an important event.

Explore how an important event is presented in **one other** part of the novel.

Use examples of the language the writer uses to support your ideas.

(24)

### Script 1 response to part (b)

#### Band 4– 15 marks

b. I have chosen to write about the important event of the shooting of Candy's dog in section Three. In this extract Candy has been forced to let Carlson shoot his old dog, and this is what happens when he is taken to be shot.

In this extract Steinbeck uses a lot of great language to show the silence that creeps up in the bunk house. He describes it by personifying it as 'silence fell on the room' and also 'silence came into the room'.

Steinbeck also shows in this extract that everything is going slowly. He shows this with how the dog is taking so long to be shot 'what's the hell's taking him so long'. Steinbeck also shows

US the slowness of time by saying 'A minute passed and another minute'. He also does this by the way alot happens in one small extract.

Steinbeck also shows how important this extract is by the way everyone is reacting.

He shows how nervous and tense everyone is by way that useless ~~serious~~ speeches are given such as 'I bet Uncle right out there in the barn with his pup'. This is shown to be useless because it has no use to the context. Steinbeck also

shows us how everyone is teachey with the way they move 'rippled the edge of the deck nervously' and also 'the little snapping noise drew the eyes <sup>all</sup> of the men in the room'.

We also see how important this extract is by the way Candy feels and reacts. Steinbeck shows us firstly that Candy does not want to talk to anyone when he did not answer'. He also shows us that he is upset by the way he has no dialogue in this section. We also get to see is upset by the way he described to be 'staring at ceiling' and then 'rolling over' when the dog has been shot.

we also see from this extract that Steinbeck is trying to create a lot of distractions of what is going on. Firstly he does this by the way the men are trying to eat normally by then sailing miserably. He then goes on to show how the men try to distract themselves with 'A by one name to play euchre'. Then lastly with the mouse that is supposed to be under the floorboards.

This extract is also shown to be important by making something seem like this could happen in the future which is close to Lennie at the end of the book.

#### Examiner summary:

*The incident, the shooting of Candy's dog, is an appropriate choice of 'one other part of the novel'; the candidate shows an assured understanding of how Steinbeck uses language and ideas, such as in the range of valid points on the different reactions of the men in the chosen extract.*

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

4	15-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assured understanding of the text</li><li>• Assured understanding of the writer's ideas</li><li>• Assured understanding of how the writer uses language</li><li>• Pertinent reference to the extract to support response.</li></ul>
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**To move up to the next band:** This response needs more perceptive comments on the language the writer uses and to support these comments with discriminating references from the chosen extract.

## Script 2 response to part (b)

Band 5– 24 marks

b) In the final chapter, Steinbeck's use of language in the description of Lennie's death is very prominent. Powerful words cause very emotive language and portrays the good deed George has committed simultaneously.

George has always been with and worked with Lennie, but to kill him quickly is the kindest thing to do. Lennie on the other hand is as simple and naïve as ever, depicting the concept of the great innocence within him. Lennie begged, 'Let's do it now.' By describing Lennie as begging, it subtly creates the idea that he could be begging for his life, but he is not, he is begging for happiness. This creates a very emotive response from the reader.

Language is used to a great effect for the description of George shooting Lennie: 'George raised the gun and steadied it', and by doing so, he is fighting himself. He does not want to kill Lennie, but he knows he has to. 'Steadied' is utilized by Steinbeck to portray how George will shoot Lennie, despite the fact that this is the opposite of what the reader wants. This also aids the build up of tension in this scene.

'The hand shook violently.' This is the opposite reaction what Wilem or Whit would have done since they were

eager to kill Lennie. On the other hand George does not want this to happen, and this instills a last hope that George will lower the gun and not shoot. 'He pulled the trigger'. By using simple, blunt language, Steinbeck relieves the mass of tension that he has built up and has ~~but~~ informed the reader of the harsh realities of life during the great depression.

'The crash of the shot rolled up the hills and rolled down again'. The language here is used to describe George's experience of the death. 'Crash' implies that for George, the shot was much louder and therefore more painful for him than he ever intended, or wished it to be. The way that the shot 'rolled' up and down the hillside creates the impression that the shot seemed to last for an age, despite the fact that it was over in seconds. The way in which George is instantly reliving the moment depicts the instantaneours despair and regret for Lennie's death.

However, Steinbeck also uses language to show how George has indeed done the righteous and good thing. 'Lennie jerked'. This utilises language to create vivid imagery of the violent death and shot. Alongside this, it also prolongs the death so that the reader's emotions can

continue to run high. Lennie died peacefully and this is a contrasting situation to Wley's Wife's death. The way in which Lennie 'settled slowly toward' uses sibilance to aid the flow and portray an almost calm feeling. 'Without quivering' illustrates the speed of Lennie's death which ~~is~~ and supports the concept that he died happy. By contrasting this to the death of Wley's Wife, Steinbeck is informing the reader again, of harsh realities.

'George shivered'. This is used to depict a variety of emotions all occurring simultaneously within George, as is natural for the death of his best friend. This one quotation portrays regret, disbelief and pain at the action which he has only just committed.

These emotions settle in, and are allowed by Steinbeck to also be absorbed and realised by the reader. 'But George sat stillly'. The 'But' shows resentment and anger at the world for being forced to kill Lennie but also the disbelief that his famous resolve for impossible situations has failed him. The use of vocabulary such as 'stillly' implies that George's potent mix of emotions has disabled him, making him unable to move. This captivates the reader and ~~is~~ allows them to feel George's pain, in this very emotive section of the book.

Stein in this passage seems to know and understand everything, which is fitting for ~~his~~ his character. 'A guy got to sometimes'. This simple, yet sympathetic use of language provides relief and a release of tension and emotions for the reader.

In conclusion, in this extract, the language used by Steinbeck presents a very important event whilst connecting with his audience. Resultantly, the language takes on an even more powerful role within the extract to communicate and share tension alongside several complex emotions with the audience.

#### Examiner summary:

The candidate's choice of another part of the novel is appropriate - the death of Lennie. The response shows perceptive understanding of the chosen extract and the writer's ideas and use of language. The comments are supported by discriminating reference to the chosen part of the novel.

#### Band this response achieves in the mark scheme:

5	20-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Perceptive understanding of the text</li><li>• Perceptive understanding of the writer's ideas</li><li>• Perceptive understanding of how the writer uses language</li><li>• Discriminating reference to the extract to support response.</li></ul>
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This response receives full marks.