

To Kill a Mockingbird
Foundation 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

Included in this pack:

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

To Kill a Mockingbird – Foundation Tier

*20 Why is racism important in the novel?

In your answer, you **must** consider:

- the words and actions of characters who are racist
- how the trial of Tom Robinson shows racism
- how racism affects characters in Maycomb County.

You may include other ideas of your own.

Use **evidence** to support your answer.

(Total for Question 20 = 40 marks)

Script 1

21 marks

AO1 – Band 3 – 9 marks

AO4 – Band 3 – 12 marks

Racism is important in the novel because most of the story is based on a black guy, Tom Robinson, going to prison for something he hasn't done, because he's black and black people had no rights in the time the novel was set.

As Jean says on page 116, 'She said you loved your niggers and trash.' This shows how racist they were in this time, probably the kids were brought up to hate black people.

The trial of Tom Robinson shows the reader how racist Maycomb really was at the time. As Atticus proved that Tom was innocent and not the defendant is what

She came onto him and her dad hit her because of that, so you'd think Tom would be free'd? You're wrong, because he was black, even though he was proved not guilty he went to prison, because he's black.

Examiner summary:

This response demonstrates some understanding of the text and points are supported with some relevant quotations. The response begins with a focused introduction, but lacks development. There is some understanding of the theme and the context with references to how Tom Robinson is treated unfairly because he is black.

Band this response achieves in the mark schemes:

AO1

3	8-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some responses to text supported by textual reference which is occasionally appropriate. Selection and evaluation of textual detail show some understanding of theme/ideas.
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AO4

3	11-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some reference to context occasionally supported by relevant textual reference. Explanation of importance of theme/idea shows occasional understanding. <p>*Sentences show some attempt to structure and control expression and meaning with some control of a range of punctuation devices. Spelling sometimes accurate with meaning hindered on occasion.</p>
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To move up to the next bands: This response needs more development of the 'must do' bullet points that direct the candidates to AO1 (response) and in the second and third bullets to AO4 (context). More reference to the text in support of the valid points is also needed.

Script 2

36 marks

AO1 – Band 5 – 14 marks

AO4 – Band 5 – 22 marks

The theme of racism is important in the novel to kill a mockingbird because it helps the main characters, Scout and Jem, to grow up and develop their own views. The theme of ~~racism~~ ^{racism} all so helps you understand another theme the novel has which is mockingbirds.

Racism in the novel is shown by different characters in different situations. One character Mrs. DeBose, as she was born and raised when the slave trade was still happening in America she sees calling a black person a 'Nigger' as something normal even though it was disrespectful to black people; another character who shows signs of being racist is ~~Scout's~~ ^{Scout's} second grade teacher Miss Gates says Hitler's wrong for persecuting the Jews just because they are different, but says the trial with Tom Robinson

(Section B continued)

'taught them a lesson' Both of those characters use racism on a daily routine even though Scout's teacher says Hitler is wrong and shouldn't be persecuting the Jews, she encourages racism when she was at the court house.

Another way racism is shown in the novel is in Tom Robinson's trial in which, the jury is very racist against Tom Robinson as they were some of the same men who tried to kill Tom Robinson at the jail house; however one member of the jury did try and get Tom Robinson an appeal which shows though ~~that~~ ^{that} racism was shown by the jury and by the segregation of black and white people there were those who tried to get him an appeal (the jury member) Judge ~~who~~ ^{the} Taylor ~~who~~ ^{who} did nothing verbally to contradict the theory of why he wouldn't be racist but his actions do as he assigned Atticus Finch to the case as he knew he would defend him with everything he had, which he did those three men who were showing ~~no~~ ^{no} racism towards Tom Robinson but more likely had some respect for him in varying degrees. This shows that the trial ~~showed~~ ^{had} a contrast of different opinions mainly that most of the white people who were watching the trial were racist and sympathised with Mayella Ewell whereas the Black

people and some of the white people were not racist and believed Tom Robinson was innocent ~~in~~ After the trial the theme of racism affected people in different ways Atticus was very disappointed but was expecting it as he says 'Tom Robinson had lost the moment Mayella Ewell opened her mouth and screamed'. Most of town seemed openly happy about the trial, and the ~~fact~~ ^{racism} that was around them which was stronger than before because now they were able to talk about something that had marked the black community. Two other characters it had affected were Jem and Scout ~~and the~~ ^{and the} second theme of growing up; Jem didn't understand why they lost when the evidence was in Tom Robinson's favor, he didn't understand why someone who had done nothing but help, could be punished; ~~which~~ ^{this} ties to the theme of Mockingbirds, however Scout sees it differently as she says before the trial 'there are only one type of jocks and that jocks' which shows before and after the trial she sees everyone equally and not like the town sees ~~every one~~.

Overall the theme of Racism is very important in the novel as it shows how ~~the~~ the people in the novel can be hypocritical even though they don't know it and others believed it was normal to treat others that way because that's how they were brought up, that shows how racism was in the very bones of people. It also shows how it ties into two other themes growing up and Mockingbirds ~~this shows~~ it helps the children define their own views on their home and racism as well as define the meaning of Mockingbirds.

Examiner summary:

This response shows a sound understanding of the theme of racism in the novel and supports all references to the theme and the context of the novel with relevant textual reference. The response does become narrative in places and loses a bit of focus.

Band this response achieves in the mark schemes:

A01

5	14-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound responses to text supported by relevant textual reference. • Selection and evaluation of textual detail show sound understanding of theme/ideas.
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A04

5	21-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound reference to context supported by relevant textual reference. • Explanation of importance of theme/idea shows sound understanding. <p>*Sentences are clearly structured, with sound control of expression and meaning with secure control of the full range of punctuation devices. Spelling is mostly accurate, with some errors.</p>
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To move up the band: This response needs to maintain the focus on analysis and avoid a drift into narration.