

# Examiners' Report November 2016

## GCSE English 2 5EH2H 01

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## **Introduction**

There was a very small entry of around 200 candidates this series, most of whom, presumably, re-taking the exam. Predictably, their approach to questions showed purpose and familiarity, with most students clear about what was expected of them and how to organise their time.

## **Question 1**

The extract presented few difficulties and most candidates were fully aware of its context within the play.

a) The Friar was seen as a well-meaning and caring character and the best candidates commented on how he is becoming impatient with Romeo whilst still wanting to protect him. Some went further to examine his motives of bringing an end to the feud or to consider how wise his actions are. Others commented thoughtfully on his reactions to the Nurse.

b) The most successful candidates were those who read the stage directions carefully and understood the inner conflict and tension which besets Friar Lawrence. There were fewer suggestions for actors to 'wave their arms about', thankfully, and many more considered the impact of changing facial expression and tone of voice. It was clear that many were unimpressed by Romeo's limp self-pity.

c) Candidates often run out of time for this question but it is not too difficult to gain marks in band one or two provided candidates clearly identify **another part of the play** and comment on some aspect of character, relationships, ideas, structure and/or plot. Sadly, a significant number made general comments about the youth of Romeo and Juliet without identifying a specific scene. The most successful focused on the lovers' decision to marry, Romeo's decision to gate-crash the party or his fickle discarding of Rosaline. A few discussed the way the sacrifice of youth prompted a tone of reconciliation at the end of the play.

This 1 a) response was awarded a mark in band 3.

Write your answer to Section A here:

Shakespeare presents Friar Lawrence in a fatherly figure way. Almost as a parent would try to comfort their young, Friar Lawrence pleads with Romeo to remain philosophical about his fate "I'll give thee armour to keep off that word -" Friar Lawrence is referring to the word 'Banishment' which is causing Romeo's turmoil. The imagery Shakespeare uses for Friar Lawrence have biblical ~~and~~ similarities. An armour is worn in times of war, and when there are wars people need to keep faith - through their belief in God and the church. Friar Lawrence is trying to tell Romeo that all is not lost, to struggle on through adversity, that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Through all his attempts Friar Lawrence sees that his words are falling upon deaf ears 'O, then

(Section A continued)

then I see that madmen have no ears." Shakespeare uses repetition throughout this scene to indicate to the audience the fear and panic Romeo is experiencing, such words as 'madman!' and 'banishment'.

Shakespeare also uses informal language between Friar Lawrence and Romeo such as 'thou', 'thy' which indicates the closeness of the two, explaining why Friar Lawrence is willing to go to such lengths to help Romeo.

Shakespeare's characterisation of Friar Lawrence is that of a man trying to heal a community, trying to stop the conflict between the dueling families. He is a good man with good intentions, his actions and intentions are only ~~meant~~ <sup>meant</sup> to help others, but ~~has~~ actually have dire consequences! Friar Lawrence would be funny if he wasn't so tragic!

(Section A continued)

(B). I feel Romeo would kneeling down, lost in thought, lost in his words, looking towards the religious artifacts that would be in the friar's home. Friar Lawrence would be pacing back and forth, and startled by the knocking.

Romeo would be in the middle of the stage, in a solo spotlight, showing how alone he feels; this would be interrupted by the friar telling him get 'arise' get up and hide. The pace of this scene would go from slow to fast, from stark to a mayhem - conflict, which turns out to be the nurse.

(Section A continued)

(c) The significance of youth is also apparent in Act I, Sc I when Romeo is talking of his love 'Rosaline' he compares her to a Swan, and believes that no other girl could be more beautiful. His youth becomes obvious when his feelings of undying love quickly switch from Rosaline to Juliet, who he then compares to a 'Snowdove'. I believe Shakespeare show Romeo's innocence in terms of how quickly he falls in and out of love, which would then also make the audience doubt his ~~real~~ love for Juliet. Could Romeo be <sup>pretending</sup> ~~pretending~~ to be in love with Juliet?!

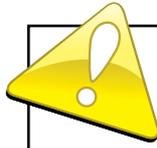
Shakespeare's play was intended to be seen, so the use of similes and metaphors in comparison to beauty would help guide the audience.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

This is a thorough response and the last ten lines demonstrate the kind of perception needed to access band 3.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

Attempt to give a fully rounded view of the character as presented in the extract.

This 1 b) response also gained a mark in band 3.

Chosen question number: **Question 1**

**Question 2**

**Question 3**

Write your answer to Section A here:

1a) Shakespeare presents Friar Lawrence as a very loyal character to Romeo as he doesn't want to let ~~any~~ anyone in as he knows Romeo will get killed. He says 'Good Romeo, hide thyself' to hide him from people, <sup>which shows</sup> so he also knows Romeo is not completely in the wrong. He also ~~seen~~ is presented as a very trustworthy character as Romeo ~~turns~~ turns <sup>to</sup> for him for advice and so does the Nurse as she says 'O holy Friar - O tell me'

B) The characters would be in Friar Lawrence's house in ~~quite~~ a dark room, in the dining room. Romeo would be sat at the table with his head in his hands whilst Friar Lawrence would be pacing the room thinking about what to do. Romeo would be saying 'No! - unless the breath of heartsick groans' in a

(Section A continued) Sad voice Using big gestures towards his heart. 'must-like unfold me from the search of eyes' would be performed with his head down and shutting his eyes for sympathy. When the knocking is heard they would both stop what they were doing and look scared at the door and freeze. Friar Lawrence would stop pacing and mutter towards Romeo 'Hark now the knock' then turn his body towards the door and shout in a confused voice 'Who's there?' then he would quickly turn back to Romeo and whisper sternly 'Romeo, arise!' as he is scared that Romeo will get killed. Romeo stands up scared as Friar Lawrence whispers sternly again saying 'you will be taken.' and they rush around looking for somewhere to hide. This is as Friar Lawrence is trying to protect him. Friar Lawrence leans back towards the door and says with a stressed tone 'stay a while!' to show he is on his way. He then pushes Romeo to the study and whispers 'Run to my study' quickly and Romeo throws himself to the floor like a child in the

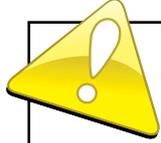
(Section A continued) Corner of the Room as he wants to be caught as he is so upset. Whilst trying to pick Romeo up Friar Lawrence shouts 'by and by! - Gods Will!' as he is starting to get stressed and frustrated as he could get in trouble for hiding Romeo and they are in panic. Friar Lawrence sighs and half gives up trying to push Romeo and says 'what simpler is this?' Romeo is sat in the corner with his head in his hands crying. Fed up, Friar Lawrence says 'I come, I come!' loudly shouting heading towards the door. ~~the~~ Louder knocking from the door he walks faster and puts his eye to the peep hole and says 'who knocks so hard' in a confused voice. 'whence come you? what is your will?'



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

The candidate has clearly visualised how this scene would appear on stage and shown understanding of how the characters must be feeling.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

Comment on everything that is said and done throughout the extract, demonstrating an understanding of what motivates each character.

## **Question 2**

In section A, Macbeth was almost as popular with candidates as Romeo and Juliet.

a) Most candidates were able to pinpoint a number of Macbeth's characteristics. Many examined his apparently ambiguous response to his wife's death as well as his underlying fear of the witches' warnings.

b) More productive answers considered how Macbeth's inner shock and torment could be made plain on the stage.

c) Death pervades the play, of course, but only the most successful candidates were able to focus on a specific incident rather than ranging widely across the text. A number of productive responses dealt with one of the events leading up to the killing of Duncan, or what Lady Macbeth's sleep-walking tells us about her mental state.

This 2 c) response was awarded a mark in band 3.

Write your answer to Section A here:

A) In this extract Shakespeare presents Macbeth to be numb to his wife's death. We see this when Macbeth says 'she should have died hereafter'. Shakespeare might have done this to show us how much Macbeth has changed through out the play, at the beginning Macbeth was so bewitched by her he killed Duncan but now as it's coming to the end of the play he doesn't seem to be all that heartbroken or grief stricken about his ~~wife's~~ beloved wife's death. This may make the reader believe Macbeth has gone possibly crazy with power and because the reader may ~~feel~~ believe this they may feel pity on Macbeth as he it was his wife who manipulated him into killing Duncan. ~~therefore~~

Macbeth also seems to be scared, this is shown when he says 'if thou speak'st false, upon the next tree shalt thou hang alive'. Macbeth went to see the witches again for more ~~prophecies~~ prophecies and one of them said he would not be deated until Birnam wood comes to Dunsinane, so with

(Section A continued) The messenger telling him that Burnham would in fact come to Dunsinane may terrify Macbeth as he will be fearing defeat. This may misplease the reader as Macbeth has become a humble and virtuous person who doesn't seem to show any remorse or even sanity anymore therefore the reader may be over-joyed at that Macbeth is coming to his end and that Donaldbain and Macduff will ~~comprise~~ overthrow Macbeth and overthrow him as King.

D) Using my understanding of this extract I would have the messenger first being quite confident but also showing slight fear in his voice, so he will be stood straight, head up and a semi clear voice as I want it to catch a little as if the messenger was nervous about what he just saw but still feeling like he needed to seem strong in front of Macbeth, I would have Macbeth faced away from the messenger possibly looking in a mirror to show that he thinks he's ~~invincible~~ invincible then he would say his first line with a relaxed tone as if he hasn't got a care in the world. The messenger would become less confident as he said his line his head would be slightly facing down; the messenger will

In this extract, Macbeth refers to death, death is quite significant in this play for example the death of Banquo. Macbeth manipulates some men who didn't like Banquo already to kill Banquo and his son Fleance, this is significant because it shows how Macbeth has changed from being manipulated to manipulating others. Banquo is also supposed to be Macbeth's best friend and Macbeth's <sup>mind</sup> has become so corrupted that he thinks killing his friend is right and that

(Section A continued) he reads ~~that it is~~ Banquo and Fleance gone, he thinks this because of what the witches told Banquo; they said he would be the father of kings therefore Macbeth's paranoia has kicked in showing Macbeth to be quite unstable. Furthermore Fleance is just a little boy and Macbeth has ~~ended~~ manipulated ~~peo~~ men into killing him this also proves that Macbeth's mind is poison to him, he was once a good man and who defended his country and now he is getting people to kill his best friend and son. However Fleance doesn't die ~~so~~ this is significant to death as he got away and was able to run from death showing Macbeth might not be as powerful as he may think.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

The candidate has selected a valid other part of the play, even though it has not been pinpointed with absolute accuracy. The comments on manipulation and Macbeth's character development raise this into band 3.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

Focus clearly on why the chosen scene is significant.

## **Question 7**

Of Mice and Men remains by far the most popular prose text.

Most candidates understood the dynamics at work in the extract and were able to place it in context.

a) Curley's wife was seen as racist, cruel and aggressive by most, but others also paid attention to her more sympathetic approach to Lennie. Candidates who moved into band 2 did so by considering the insecurity she shows when commenting on Curley.

b) The majority of candidates answered this question on language with notable success. Large numbers picked out words or phrases which indicated how Crooks recedes into himself, how Candy 'quietly' attempts to assert some kind of dignity or how Lennie reverts to 'whining'

c) Rather too many candidates ranged widely over the novella to describe the power structure on the ranch but the more successful chose a specific incident such as Lennie's retaliation in the face of Curley's assault. Some very good answers demonstrated how this incident showed the power of George over Lennie, the reduction of Curley's power and the more significant power arising from Slim's moral supremacy.

This 7 c response was awarded a mark in band 3.

Chosen question number: Question 4

Question 5

Question 6

Question 7

Question 8

Question 9

Question 10

Write your answer to Section B here:

a. Steinbeck shows Curley's wife as aggressive towards others when questioned. He uses 'Nobody'd listen to you, an' you know it. Nobody'd listen to you' to emphasise her rage when Candy threatened her. This is <sup>because Steinbeck is showing</sup> ~~shows~~ Curley's wife to be short tempered, much like Curley, and his constant aggression <sup>towards her</sup> has led her to be his way ~~to~~ with others.

He also shows her to ~~be~~ easily hide her emotions while returning to the ranch. By using 'she slipped out of the door and disappeared into the dark barn' he suggests she returns to her ~~normal~~ normal state when needed, although she <sup>was</sup> angry moments ago. He displays this to show it's easier to return to a 'dark' environment with hidden emotions so she can live ~~to~~ with the idea of being of being stuck on the ranch forever.

b) Steinbeck uses the reaction of Crooks to show ~~the~~ the effect Curley's wife's anger has on them. He ~~is~~ uses ~~imagery~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ language

(Section B continued) Such as imagery in 'Crooks stared ~~hopelessly~~ <sup>hopelessly</sup> at her', ~~he uses Crooks reaction to~~ <sup>by doing this, he</sup> suggests Curley's wife has authority over him, as he includes the adverb 'hopelessly'. Although, the ~~the~~ reader knows this isn't true as Curley's wife is also 'hopeless', as she's the only woman ~~on~~ on the ranch in a patriarchal society. This hints to the audience that Curley's wife 'uses her anger as a defense' to hide the fact that ~~she'll~~ <sup>we</sup> live and die on the ranch.

• she'll be the same as characters such as Crooks or Lennie, and she'll

The writer also displays Lennie's ~~reaction~~ <sup>incapability to do</sup> ~~while~~ <sup>when</sup> ~~doing~~ independent tasks. He uses repetition in 'Lennie whined 'I wish't George was here. I wish't George was here''. By repeating 'I wish't George was here' Steinbeck shows the reader Lennie is like a child who is ~~a~~ dependent on their parent, in this case 'George', ~~being~~ and always needs them 'here' to carry out tasks the right way. This intensifies the idea that Lennie ~~is~~ isn't able to do independent tasks, due to his mental limitation, because otherwise things go wrong. This makes the reader pity him as his wrong doings are accidental like a child. Although, as we, the reader, later learn is false as he's dangerous and crazy (by talking to fake

c) Steinbeck shows the significance of power in Lennie and Curley's fight scene. He shows Lennie, who has less authority, crush Curley's <sup>(the Boss' son)</sup> hand. In doing this, Steinbeck shows ~~physical power~~ Lennie's enormous strength strips Curley of his most treasured possession, masculinity. This foreshadows to the reader Lennie has the capability to do it again, and does by killing Curley's 'property' ~~his~~ his wife.

The writer further shows power through the character of Slim. He displays that Slim holds the highest authority on the ranch as he ~~lets~~ <sup>makes</sup> Curley not tell anyone ~~how~~ how his hand really got crushed. In doing this, he shows Slim, the 'Prince of the Ranch' is very respected. <sup>So, he</sup> ~~and~~ overall the migrant workers will follow <sup>someone with</sup> respect over <sup>someone with higher</sup> social class on the ranch. <sup>and authority</sup> the events in the fight and

He also uses Curley's reaction to show people don't always have power. By Curley's hand being crushed, and by him not saying anything, he shows one of the most powerful people on the ranch can be powerless at times. He intensifies this by Curley's usual aggressive manner completely disappearing, and instead being 'quiet' and 'respecting' Slim's commands. ~~However,~~ Although, instead of the reader feeling sorry for Curley

(Section B continued) They still view him as the 'anti hero'. This is because Steinbeck shows his aggressive behaviour provoked ~~to~~ Hennie to crush his hand, and he deserved it.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

This was a popular choice of extract but the candidate does more with it than most. Much credit was given for the points about the foreshadowing and about respect for Slim being more important than respect for Curley.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

Don't just provide a summary of your chosen scene. Use CRISP to help you comment on significance.

## Question 11

Question 11 was the much more popular choice in Section C. Candidates had strong views against zoos if they offered limited space for the animals but favoured wildlife parks which allowed more freedom. Some candidates only saw the potential benefits for visitors but more engaging responses took account of the conservation work done by zoos and parks. A wider perspective on how natural habitats are receding was invaluable in helping some candidates to present a more measured response but it was also possible to achieve high marks by highlighting personal experiences of visits to zoos.

This response was awarded marks in band 5 for all three assessment objectives.

Chosen question number: **Question 11**  **Question 12**

Write your answer to Section C here:

Good afternoon year eleven, today I will be ~~providing~~ providing you with my personal views on whether Zoos and wildlife parks are harmful or beneficial. For example, I think you'd all agree that being free to do as we please over the summer holidays is much more enjoyable than being locked up in a stoney, old, boring classroom. So don't you think ~~that~~ that these wild animals would feel the same about being trapped in a cage? This will lead me on to my next point. But I think it is clear to you all that I am strongly against zoos and wildlife parks and believe that they are harmful, cruel and just wrong. Furthermore, my initial point is that animals that originate from the wild should remain there, rather than

(Section C continued) being trapped in captivity. My reason for this ~~is~~ links back to what I previously addressed. Animals will be much happier, content and overall have a better quality of life if they are free to do what they were put on this planet ~~to do~~ ~~for~~ for example, cheetahs that are kept in zoos simply do not have the space to run, hunt and do the thing they were designed to do and enjoy like they would in their ~~own~~ natural habitats.

However, some would argue that these animals would have an increased quality of life while being kept in zoos and wildlife parks. This is because they are being protected and kept safe from harm. Although, I would still agree my ~~first~~ previous point as these animals were designed to fight off predators or be pursued as prey. This is the natural cycle of nature.

~~My~~ to continue, my second point against zoos and wildlife parks is that ~~the animals living there~~ the prime use of the animals living there is

(Section C continued)

for entertainment. So the majority of people see a day out to a zoo as a fun day out, seeing rare animals that you would not encounter in your day to day life. But just take a moment to think about how this will impact these animals. Put yourself in their shoes for a second; how would it make you feel if thousands of people were present to spectate your every action? (Whether it be sleeping, playing or even going to the toilet). You wouldn't like it would you? I certainly wouldn't be able to relax.

~~The~~ Despite this, there are benefits that come from using animals for entertainment. These include, the money that is earned by people paying to see the animals. As if this money is spent correctly, it could be used to improve the areas where the animals are kept or to protect the environments where these animals came from; therefore, one day they may be released from captivity and returned to their homes.

(Section C continued) My final issue with wild animals being taken away from their natural environments and being kept in zoos or wildlife parks is that this could deteriorate ~~the~~ and impact their health negatively. For example, if an animal is transported to the opposite side of the world than their home, they will not be immune to the diseases and illnesses that are found there. Therefore they are likely to become extremely ill and react more severely to these illnesses than animals that are used to them. This also links to the change in climate. If a camel is used to the extreme temperatures in the desert and is moved to a zoo within the UK, it may not be able to cope with the drop in temperature (especially in the winter, when the temperature can reach minus degrees).

Alternatively, there are ways that zoos and wildlife parks can improve the overall health of a species. For example, often animals are moved into captivity if they are at risk of

(Section C continued) becoming endangered. Therefore, while they are in captivity they can be bred to increase the numbers within the species - this way extinction is prevented.

In conclusion, there are many advantages to zoos and wildlife parks. Including, the animals can be kept safe from harm and looked after. As well as that, the money gathered from ~~the~~ tourists can provide better facilities for the animals and improve the environments they originate from. Lastly, ~~and~~ being bred in zoos can reduce certain species risk of extinction. However, my view within the debate still remains that zoos and wildlife parks are harmful cruel and just wrong! This is due to all of my previously addressed points and many more. Animals are living beings and not merely a form of entertainment! Their health is significantly reduced and finally, they should have the same rights as me and you to freedom.



**ResultsPlus**  
**Examiner Comments**

The candidate has presented a fully developed argument which is organised and uses clear connectives. It uses direct address to the audience in line with the requirements of the question. There are some errors of spelling and punctuation but these are minimal.



**ResultsPlus**  
**Examiner Tip**

Gather together all the stages of your argument in a careful plan.

## **Question 12**

There were a number of thoughtful responses which explored the merits of achieving happiness in the service of others. Others successfully considered the transience of short-term gratification compared to adopting a life of material gain. Less rewarding approaches offered lists of the 'Happiness is...' variety.

As always, much depends on how candidates are able to develop ideas whilst writing accurately in well-structured sentences.

## Paper Summary

There are signs that the (a) questions in both sections A and B are being approached with assurance and confidence by most candidates. Many more than in the past are able to meet the challenges of the language question in Section B, and have clearly benefited from word – and phrase – level analysis, whilst many candidates would benefit from a structured approach to answering the performance question in Section A. Answers to (c) questions in both Reading Sections have shown a marked improvement with some centres clearly adopting CRISP, or something similar, to give candidates a helpful framework.

There has been an apparent and continuing increase in the number of candidates managing their time effectively and completing all sections of the paper.

Writing responses clearly benefit from being carefully planned and checked for accuracy.

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Use a structured approach to answer the performance question in Section A
- Use word and phrase level analysis in the language question in Section B
- A framework such as CRISP may help in the Reading sections
- Carefully plan and check your writing response for accuracy.

The candidate has selected a valid other part of the play, even though it has not been pinpointed with absolute accuracy. The comments on manipulation and Macbeth's character development raise this into band 3.

Focus clearly on why the chosen scene is significant.

## **Grade Boundaries**

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