

Unit 1 Of Mice and Men and Poetry Exam – January 2020

Section A – Extract and Essay



Extract example

Read the extract on the opposite page. Then answer the following question: Look closely at the way George speaks and behaves here. What does it reveal about his character? Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

George stared at his solitaire lay, and then he flounced the cards together and turned around to Lennie. Lennie was lying down on the bunk watching him. 'Look, Lennie! This here ain't no set up. I'm scared. You gonna have trouble with that Curley guy. I seen that kind before. He was kinda feelin' you out. He figures he's got you scared and he's gonna take a sock at you the first chance he gets.' Lennie's eyes were frightened. 'I don't want no trouble,' he said plaintively. 'Don't let him sock me, George.'

The fact that George, 'stared at his solitaire lay' tells us he's feeling uneasy about something and has something on his mind. He then, 'flounced the cards together' which suggests he's in an aggressive mood. When it says, 'I'm scared' this shows he's feeling anxious about a potential problem and is feeling protective. (Continue like this for 20 minutes)

Essay examples

How does John Steinbeck use the character of Curley's wife to highlight some aspects of American society in the 1930s? [20]

Or

'Of Mice and Men is Steinbeck's protest against the unfairness of American society in the 1930s.' To what extent do you agree with this statement?

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5
Question 1	Introduce context of novella and introduce character	Her loneliness and she tries to combat it with appearance etc.	Her relationship with her husband and other ranch workers.	Her death – what it represents.	What was Steinbeck trying to symbolise through her as a character.
Question 2	Introduce context of novella and introduce theme	Crooks – racial discrimination.	Curley's wife – role of women.	Candy – the elderly. How he was bullied by Carlson etc.	The American Dream – what was life like for Americans in the 30s?

Section B - Poetry

Read and annotate each poem. Remember to read the entire question as it will tell you what the two poems are about. Then write a (roughly) 5 paragraph essay about how the poems are similar and different. Try to include the following:

Content – what they're about	Ideas – what do the poets want us to think about?	Mood – happy/unsettled/sad/ - what's the tone?	Structure – stanzas? Does it rhyme and why/why not.	Your response – which one did you prefer and why?
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