

WJEC GCSE English Literature:

Unit 1

Of Mice and Men

Revision Guide



EJD/2018

The Examination Paper



GCSE

3720UA0-1



S18-3720UA0-1

**ENGLISH LITERATURE
UNIT 1
HIGHER TIER**

TUESDAY, 22 MAY 2018 – MORNING

2 hours

SECTION A

	<i>Pages</i>
<i>Of Mice and Men</i>	2-3
<i>Anita and Me</i>	4-5
<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	6-7
<i>I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings</i>	8-9
<i>Chanda's Secrets</i>	10-11

SECTION B

<i>Poetry</i>	12
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ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen. Do not use pencil or gel pen. Do not use correction fluid. Answer **both** Section A and Section B. Answer on **one** text in Section A **and** answer the question in Section B.

Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided.

Use both sides of the paper. Write only within the white areas of the booklet.

Write the question number in the two boxes in the left hand margin at the start of each answer,

e.g.

2	1
---	---

.

Leave at least two line spaces between each answer.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Section A: 30 marks Section B: 20 marks

You are advised to spend your time as follows: Section A – about one hour

Section B – about one hour

The number of marks is given in brackets after each question or part-question.

You are reminded that the accuracy and organisation of your writing will be assessed.

Section A of the Examination (Of Mice and Men)

2

SECTION A

1. *Of Mice and Men*

Answer part (a) and **either** part (b) **or** part (c).

You are advised to spend about 20 minutes on part (a), and about 40 minutes on part (b) or part (c).

(a) 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. [10]

Either,

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

Or,

(c) '*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? [20]

You must respond to the extract question!

Only respond to one of the essay questions!

Another Example of Section A

Of Mice and Men

Answer

0	1
---	---

 and **either**

0	2
---	---

or

0	3
---	---

.

You are advised to spend about 20 minutes on

0	1
---	---

, and about 40 minutes on

0	2
---	---

 or

0	3
---	---

.

0	1
---	---

 Read the extract on the opposite page. Then answer the following question:

Look closely at the way Lennie speaks and behaves here. What does it reveal about his character? [10]

Either,

0	2
---	---

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

Or,

0	3
---	---

 'American society in the 1930s robbed people of their ability to form important relationships.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? [20]

Section B: Unseen Poetry

Section B is just the poetry.

Recommended time to read, annotate and write.

You must remember that it is the last question in the exam paper! The question is always the same.

12

SECTION B

Spend about 1 hour on this section. Think carefully about the poems before you write your answer.

In both of these poems the poets describe what their homes mean to them.

6. Write about both poems and their effect on you. Show how they are similar and how they are different.

You may write about each poem separately and then compare them, or make comparisons where appropriate in your answer as a whole.

Table	Sold
We were going to sell the table. It's big where it is, with those elbowing edges coming after us and corners that force us into corners.	Others want this house and soon we must either leave or stay. Is it the house or love we are moving out of? Perhaps we cannot say
But we decided not to. Instead, we said we'd rub down the surface, get rid of each burn and dent and moon of stain and the stuck inch of newsprint.	but it hurts, all afternoon our marriage has moved inside me – the boys, the prints on the stairs, the broken down cars, the holidays in heaven and hell, long Saturdays in market towns, mad neighbours ...
But we've not even been able to start cleaning our old table.	I pick you a pear from the tree but you have disappeared again into silence you inhabit, your second home, where a whisper might fall heavily to the floor – an incendiary, pear-shaped and loaded with pain.
It's had too many babies changed on it, too many trumpets and spoons whanged on it, too many whales and witches drawn on it	Shall we stay or leave then, love? It's only the years moving inside us

[20]

The response is worth 20 marks (the same mark as your *Of Mice and Men* essay).

Key Advice for the Unseen Poetry Section

Remember the key message: 'Write a lot about a little.'

Follow one of these approaches:

- Introduction/overview where you link the two poems ('Woman Work' appears to be about, whereas 'Overheard in County Sligo' presents.....)
- Analyse poem A
- Analyse poem B whilst making points of comparison and contrast
- Conclusion

OR

- Introduction/overview where you link the two poems
(‘Woman Work’ appears to be about , whereas ‘Overheard in County Sligo’ presents.....)
- Analyse poem A
- Analyse poem B
- Compare and contrast key points
- Conclusion

Key Analytical Words and Phrases

suggests

implies

evokes

connotes

illustrates

exemplifies

highlights

demonstrates

signifies

accentuates

symbolises

portrays

conveys

creates

Tentative Language

perhaps

may

might

could...

hints at

suggests

possibly

maybe

Key Words and Phrases for Connections and Comparisons

similarly

differently

similar

different

in contrast

contrastingly

however

in the same way

whereas

likewise

alike

both

alternatively

Of Mice and Men: Context

The Title

The title of the book comes from a poem by the 18th century Scottish poet Robert Burns. It is about a mouse which carefully builds a winter nest in a wheat field, only for it to be destroyed by a ploughman. It is written in Scots *dialect*.

'To a Mouse' by Robert Burns.

The best laid schemes o' mice and men
Gang aft a-gley, (go often astray)
An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain,
For promis'd joy.



The best planned schemes of mice and men
Often go wrong / always go astray
And leave us nothing but grief and pain,
Instead of the joy they promised!

The mouse had dreamed of a safe, warm winter and is now faced with the harsh reality of cold, loneliness, and possible death. There is a parallel here with George and Lennie's joyful fantasy of a farm of their own, and its all-too-predictable destruction at the end of the story. Perhaps it is also meant to suggest to us how unpredictable our lives are, and how vulnerable we are to tragedy.

The Great Depression

The Wall Street Crash

- The Great Depression began with the huge crash of the stock market on October 24th, 1929.
- This day was known as 'Black Thursday'.
- 16 million shares of stock were quickly sold, and this led to America's worst ever economic depression.
- The President was Herbert Hoover.



What happened?

- Wage income for workers, who were lucky enough to have kept their jobs, fell almost 43% between 1929 and 1933.
- Farm prices fell so drastically that many farmers lost their homes and land.
- At the height of the Depression in 1933, nearly 25% of the nation's total workforce, 12,830,000 people, were unemployed.

- It is estimated that nearly 50% of children during the Great Depression did not have adequate food, shelter, or medical care.
- From 1929 to 1932, 5,000 banks went out of business.
- Many people were made homeless and some lived in shanty towns known as 'Hoovervilles'. People lived in shacks and tents.

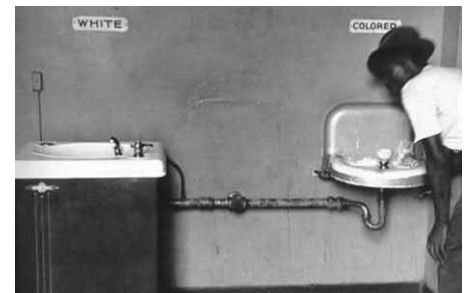
Racism

How did the Great Depression affect black people?

- In the Great Depression, black people suffered as badly as white people and, in most cases, a great deal worse.
- In the south of the country, they experienced awful racism and racist attitudes that remained from the times of slavery.
- They left the southern states in large numbers, hoping to find work in the big cities like Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia and New York.
- They could not find work in the cities and still experienced racism, even if it was not as obvious.
- The living conditions in the cities were terrible.
- Black men also travelled the country looking for work, but it was even harder for them to find a job than white migrant workers. This was because of racism.

Discrimination and Racism

- Black people were often segregated and made to use different rooms, buildings, facilities and transport to white people.
- Slavery was abolished in 1833, but a hundred years on, and many white people still treated black people extremely badly.
- Racist vocabulary was still frequently used.
- Some groups of white people terrorised black people. The biggest group was the Klu Klux Klan.
- Klan members carried out lynchings of black people, taking the law into their own hands, usually in rural areas.
- They murdered people, usually by hanging, sometimes burning, sometimes both.
- The people who carried out these awful crimes usually went unpunished. The law favoured white people and black people were often harshly treated by the police and courts.



BBC Bitesize: Extra Contextual Information about Racism

Why was there so much racial inequality in the USA between 1929 and 1945?

The situation of black people in the 1930s

Segregation and the Jim Crow Laws

The USA constitution and federal law declared that everyone was equal. The southern states passed the *Jim Crow Laws* which related to *segregation*. This meant that white people and black people had to live separately. The areas of society affected by segregation included churches, hospitals, theatres and schools. Black people had the worst jobs and the poorest standard of education. Black people also found it difficult to register to vote because of the following:

- Poll Tax – A tax had to be paid in order to be able to vote, and most black people were too poor to pay the tax.
- Literacy Tests (reading) – In order to be able to vote, people had to prove that they could read difficult extracts. If black people passed these tests, they would then be threatened and attacked so that they would not vote.

Remember:

A large number of black people were illiterate during this period, as a result of poor education.

The Ku Klux Klan

The KKK was active in the southern states. Most of its members were *White Anglo-Saxon Protestants (WASPs)* and they wanted to show that they were better and more powerful than black people, immigrants, Jews, Roman Catholics, communists and socialists.

The KKK became known for the following:

- Holding night time meetings and marching in white clothing with masks over their heads
- Beating up black people
- Throwing tar and feathers
- Hanging
- Raping
- Murdering
- Lynching – mob killings. In the state of Georgia in 1924-25, 135 people were lynched.

Members of the KKK were seldom punished because most of the members were policemen, judges and governors. By 1924 there were about 5 million members. The number of members fell when the leader of the KKK, D. C. Stephenson, was found guilty of kidnapping and raping a young girl in 1925.

The Response of the NAACP

The National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) was established in 1909 to try to ensure a better life for black people.

The objectives of the NAACP:

- To get rid of segregation
- To get voting rights for black people
- To get equal education for black people.

In the 1920s, the NAACP campaigned and protested to pass a bill against lynching, but a number of black people were still afraid to vote because of the KKK. By the 1930s and 1940s, the NAACP tried to challenge discrimination and segregation in the courts. Political parties started to realise that winning the vote of the black people was important, especially in the north. Roosevelt formed a 'Black Cabinet' within his government in order to deal with the needs of black people.

The impact of the Depression and the New Deal (1930s)

It was black people who suffered the most during the Depression. By mid 1934, over half the black people in the north were dependent on government support. President Roosevelt's New Deal helped black people a little – over a million received support and found jobs. However, the New Deal discriminated against certain groups and did not help everybody. In 1936, many black people voted for the Democrats and, as a result, there was an increase in the number of black people elected to national and local government. By 1940, there were 100 black people working for the country's government.

Curley's Wife: Key Quotations

Chapter 2 (what Candy says before she appears)

"Wife lives over in the boss's house. Seems like Curley is cockier'n ever since he got married."

Curley has a "glove fulla vaseline" because he's keeping his hand "soft for his wife".

"Wait'll you see Curley's wife."

"She got the eye".

"Well, I think Curley's married... a tart."

"Well, you look her over, mister. You see if she ain't a tart."

"Jailbait"

"trouble"

Chapter 2 (when she appears for the first time)

Curley's wife is described as a 'girl' and she is cutting off 'rectangle of sunshine in the doorway.'

She is 'looking in' to the bunk house.

She was 'heavily made up', her hair was curled 'like sausages', and she wore a 'cotton house dress.'

She had 'red fingernails' and 'rouged lips', and 'red ostrich feathers' on her shoes.

She says, "I'm looking for Curley".

'Her voice had a nasal, brittle quality.'

"She put her hands behind her back and leaned against the door frame so that her body was thrown forward."

She speaks to George "playfully".



Chapter 2 (what George says)

George calls her a "tramp", "bitch", "poison", "jail bait" and a "rat trap". He then tells Lennie to keep away from her.

Chapter 3 (when others talk about her)

Whit calls her the "new kid."

Whit also questions: "Well, ain't she a looloo?"

Whit: "You'll see plenty. She ain't concealing nothing. I never seen nobody like her. She got the eye going all the time on everybody. I bet she even gives the stable buck the eye."

George: "She's gonna make a mess. They're gonna be a bad mess about her. She's a jail bait all set on a trigger... Ranch with a bunch of guys on it ain't no place for a girl, specially like her."

Chapter 4 (with Lennie, Candy and Crooks)

"Her face was heavily made up."

"They left all the weak ones here."

'Lennie watched her fascinated.'

"If I catch any one man, and he's alone, I get along fine with him. But just let two of the guys get together and you won't talk."

“Think I don’t like to talk to somebody ever’ once in a while?”

‘The girl flared up.’

“Swell guy, ain’t he?” (about Curley)

“Think I’m gonna stay in that two-by-four house and listen to how Curley’s gonna lead with his left twice, and then bring in the old right cross?”

“An’ a guy tol’ me he could put me in pitchers.”

“Standin’ here talkin’ to a bunch of bindlestiffs - a nigger an’ a dum-dum and a lousy ol’ sheep – an’ likin’ it because they ain’t nobody else.”

Curley’s wife “laughed” at their dream and calls it “Baloney”.

“You keep your place then, Nigger. I could get you strung up on a tree so fast it ain’t even funny.”

“I’m glad you bust up Curley a little bit. He got it comin’ to him. Sometimes I’d like to bust him myself.”

Chapter 5 (with Lennie and when she dies)

“I never get to talk to nobody. I get awful lonely.”

“I get lonely.”

“I can’t talk to nobody but Curley. Else he gets mad.”

‘She consoled him’

‘She spoke soothingly’

‘Her face grew angry...’ “Ain’t I got a right to talk to nobody?”

“I coulda made somethin’ of myself.”

“pitchers”

‘her words tumbled out in a passion of communication, as though she hurried before her listener could be taken away’

“I don’t *like* Curley. He ain’t a nice fella.”

“nice clothes”

“I never got that letter...I always thought my ol’ lady stole it.”

“This guy says I was a natural.”

“You’re kinda a nice fella.”

Chapter 5 (death/after her death)

‘her body flopped like a fish..., for Lennie had broken her neck.’

‘And the meanness and the planning 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.’

Candy: “You God damn tramp” / “Ever’body knowed you’d mess things up” / “lousy tart”

Slim: Key Quotations

Chapter 2 (before he appears)

Candy says: "Hell of a nice fella... Slim don't need to wear no high-heeled boots."



First appearance in Chapter 2

'tall man'

'he moved with a majesty only achieved by royalty and master craftsmen.'

'jerkline skinner'

'prince of the ranch'

'There was a gravity in his manner and a quiet so profound that all talk stopped when he spoke.'

'His authority was so great that his word was taken on any subject, be it politics or love.'

'His hatchet face was ageless.'

'He might have been thirty-five or fifty.'

He looked at George and Lennie "kindly" / his voice was 'very gentle'

'His tone was friendly. It invited confidence without demanding it.'

"Ain't many guys travel around together."

"Maybe everybody in the whole damn world is scared of each other."

"I drowned four of 'em right off. She couldn't feed that many."

"Slim stood up slowly and with dignity."

Chapter 3 (to George)

"I would have had to drowned most of 'em, anyways."

"I can see Lennie ain't a bit mean." / "He's a nice fella"

He has a 'calm invitation to confidence.'

"Hardly none of the guys ever travel together. I hardly never seen two guys travel together."

"You know how the hands are, they just come in and get their bunk and work a month, and then they quit and go alone. Never seem to give a damn about nobody."

When George wants to talk: 'Slim neither encouraged or discouraged him.'

Chapter 3

He has 'Godlike' eyes.

He repeats that Lennie is a "nice fella."

Slim says that the men go around the ranches alone "get mean" and they "get so they don't want to talk to nobody."

He has 'calm eyes.'

He observes that Lennie is 'like a kid' and that 'he's so strong.'

Chapter 3 (in relation to Candy's dog)

"I wisht somebody'd shoot me if I got old an' a cripple."

'Candy looked helplessly at him, for Slim's opinions were law.'

'Candy looked a long time at Slim to try to find some reversal. And Slim gave him none.'

"Take a shovel." (to Carlson)

"Candy, you can have any one of them pups you want."

Chapter 3 (to Curley)

He is 'scowling.'

"You've been asking me too often. I'm getting God damn sick of it. If you can't look after your own God damn wife, what you expect me to do about it? You lay offa me."

In the fight scene, he calls Curley a "dirty little rat."

"I think you got your hand caught in a machine."

Chapter 5

'Slim went quietly over to [Curley's wife], and he felt her wrist...When he stood up the men crowded near and the spell was broken.'

"An' s'pose they lock him up an' strap him down and put him in a cage. That ain't no good, George."

"Curley – maybe you better stay here with your wife."

Chapter 6 (after George has killed Lennie)

"A guy got to sometimes."

"You hadda, George. I swear you hadda."

Candy: Key Quotations

Chapter 2

'a tall, stoop-shouldered old man'

'He pointed with his right arm, and out of the sleeve came a round stick-like wrist, but no hand.'

'The old man came slowly into the room. He had his broom in his hand. And at his heels there walked a drag-footed sheep dog, gray of muzzle, and with pale, blind old eyes.'

"I had 'im ever since he was a pup. God, he was a good sheep dog when he was younger.'

'The old man was reassured. He had drawn a derogatory statement from George. He felt safe now, and he spoke more confidently.'

"Well, I think Curley's married ... a tart."

'The old man moved towards the door, and his ancient dog lifted his head and peered about, and then got painfully to his feet to follow.'



Chapter 2 (Carlson about Candy's dog)

"That dog of Candy's is so God damn old he can hardly walk."

"Why'n't you get Candy to shoot his old dog and give him one of the pups to raise up?"

"Candy feeds him milk."

Chapter 3 (up to the dog's death)

'Old Candy, the swamper, came in and went to his bunk, and behind him struggled his dog.'

'He reached over and patted the ancient dog, and he apologised, "I been around him so much I never notice how he stinks."' "

'He said proudly, "You wouldn't think it to look at him now, but he was the best damn sheep dog I ever seen."' "

'softly' (repeated twice)

He is also described as looking about 'unhappily'.

'He scratched the white stubble whiskers on his cheek nervously.'

"I'm so used to him," he said softly. "I had him from a pup."

'Candy looked helplessly at him, for Slim's opinions were law.'

'Candy looked for help from face to face.'

'Candy watched [Carlson] uneasily.'

'Candy said hopefully, "You ain't got no gun."' "

"Maybe tomorra. Le's wait till tomorra."

'Candy looked a long time at Slim to try to find some reversal. And Slim gave him none. At last Candy said softly and hopelessly, "Awright – take 'im."' "

'He lay back on his bunk and crossed his arms behind his head and stared at the ceiling.'

'Candy did not move nor answer him.'

'Candy lay rigidly on his bed staring at the ceiling.'

'Candy did not answer. The silence fell on the room again.' (When Slim offers him a puppy.)

'Candy lay still, staring at the ceiling.'

'Only Candy continued to stare at the ceiling.'

Chapter 3 (after the dog's death)

'For a moment he continued to stare at the ceiling. Then he rolled slowly over and faced the wall and lay silent.' (p.76)

'Old Candy lay still' (p.81) to 'Old Candy turned slowly over. His eyes were wide open.' (p.84)

"I ain't much good with o'ny one hand. I lost my hand right here on this ranch. That's why they give me a job swampin'. An' they give me two hundred an' fifty dollars 'cause I los' my hand."

"I'd make a will an' leave my share to you guys in case I kick off, 'cause I ain't got no relatives or nothing. You guys got any money? Maybe we could do her right now?"

'They fell into silence. They looked at one another, amazed. This thing they had never really believed in was coming true.'

"own place"

"You seen what they done to my dog tonight? They says he wasn't no good to himself nor nobody else. When they can me here I wisht somebody' shoot me. But they won't do nothing like that."

"I ought to (have) shot that dog myself, George, I shouldn't ought to of let no stranger shoot my dog."

Chapter 4

'He just sets in the bunk house sharpening his pencil and sharpening and figuring.' (Lennie about Candy)

Candy stood in the doorway scratching his bald wrist and looking blindly into the lighted room. He made no attempt to enter.'

'Candy came in, but he was still embarrassed.'

"This's the first time I ever been in his room." (Candy about Crooks)

"Everybody wants a little bit of land, not much. Jus' som'thin' that was his. Somethin' he could live on and there couldn't nobody throw him off of it."

"We're gonna have a dog an' rabbits an' chickens. We're gonna have green corn an' maybe a cow or a goat."

'He stopped, overwhelmed with his picture.'

Candy reacts/speaks 'sourly' to Curley's wife.

Referred to as "a lousy ol' sheep" by Curley's wife.

'Candy's face had grown redder and redder, but before she was done speaking, he had control of himself.

He was the master of the situation.'

He refers to Curley's wife as a 'bitch'.

Chapter 5

"Oh, George! I been figurin' and figurin'. I got it doped out how we can even make some money on them rabbits."

'gradually his sorrow and anger grew into words. "You God damn tramp," he said viciously.' (p.132)

"you lousy tart"

"I could (have) hoed in the garden and washed dishes for them guys."

'His eyes blinded with tears and he turned and went weakly out of the barn.'

Curley: Key Quotations

Chapter 2 (first appearance)

'a young man came into the bunkhouse; a thin young man with a brown face, with brown eyes and a head of tightly curled hair.' (p.46)

'like the boss, he wore high-heeled boots.'

'He glanced coldly at George and then at Lennie.'

'His arms gradually bent at the elbows and his hands closed into fists. He stiffened and went into a slight crouch. His glance was at once calculating and pugnacious.'

'Curley lashed his body around.'

"Curley's pretty handy."

"Curley's like a lot of little guys. He hates big guys. He's all the time picking scraps with big guys."



Chapter 2 (Candy and George talk about him)

"this Curley punk is gonna get hurt if he messes around with Lennie."

"Seems like Curley ain't givin' nobody a chance."

"Don't tell Curley I said none of this. He'd slough me. He just don't give a damn. Won't ever get canned 'cause his old man's the boss."

"This guy Curley sounds like a son-of-a-bitch to me. I don't like mean little guys." (p.49)

"Seems like Curley is cockier'n ever since he got married."

"Well, that glove's fulla vaseline."

"Curley says he's keepin' that hand soft for his wife."

"Married two weeks and got the eye? Maybe that's why Curley's pants is full of ants."

"Well, I think Curley's married ... a tart."

"You gonna have trouble with that Curley guy. I seen that kind before."

Chapter 2 (when he reappears)

'Curley bounced in.' (p.59)

"You seen a girl around here?" he demanded angrily.'

'angry little man'

'demanded' and 'scowled'

"I hate his guts." (George about Curley)

Chapter 3

Curley burst into the room excitedly. "Any you guy seen my wife?" he demanded.

'Curley looked threateningly about the room. "Where's the hell's Slim?"

'Curley's shoulders dropped and squared.'

'Curley jumped out the door and banged it after him.'

Whit: "Curley's handy, God damn handy. Got in the finals for the Golden Gloves. He got newspaper clippings about it."

He says to Slim: "I didn't mean nothing"(repeated) – This is when he's accused Slim of seeing his wife/being near her.

'Curley whirled on Carlson. "You keep outta this les' you wanta step outside.'"

'Curley stepped over to Lennie like a terrier.'

'Curley's rage exploded. "Come on, ya big bastard.'"

Slim calls Curley a 'dirty little rat'

'Curley's fist was swinging when Lennie reached for it. The next minute Curley was flopping like a fish on a line.'

He is referred to as a 'flopping little man'

'Curley was white and shrunken by now, and his struggling had become weak. He stood crying, his fist lost in Lennie's paw.'

'Curley sat down on the floor, looking in wonder at his crushed hand.'

'Slim smiled wryly. He knelt down beside Curley. "You got your senses in hand enough to listen?"

"I think you got your hand caught in a machine. If you don't tell nobody what happened, we ain't going to."

Chapter 5

'Curley came suddenly to life. "I know who done it," he cried.'

"I'm gonna get him. I'm going for my shotgun. I'll kill the big son-of-a-bitch myself. I'll shoot 'im in the guts."

'He ran furiously out of the barn.'

Slim says: "Curley's gonna want to shoot 'im. Curley's still mad about his hand."

'Curley carried a shotgun in his good hand. Curley was cold now.'

Slim says: "Curley – maybe you better stay here with your wife."

'Curley's face reddened.'

"I'm gonna shoot the guts outta the big bastard myself, even if I only got one hand. I'm gonna get 'im."

Crooks: Key Quotations

Chapter 2 (Candy talks about him)

“Ya see the stable buck’s a nigger.”

“Yeah. Nice fella, too. Got a crooked back where a horse kicked him. The boss gives him hell when he’s mad. But the stable buck don’t give a damn about that. He reads a lot. Got books in his room.”

“They let the nigger come in that night.” (Christmas time)

“Little skinner name of Smitty took after the nigger. Done pretty good, too.”

“The guys said on account of the nigger’s got a crooked back, Smitty can’t use his feet.”

‘He paused in relish at the memory.’



Chapter 3 (Crooks appears for a very short time)

‘the stable buck put his head in’

‘a lean negro head, lined with pain, the eye patient’

Chapter 4

‘Crooks, the negro stable buck, had his bunk in the harness room; a little shed that leaned off the wall of the barn.’

‘And scattered about the floor were a number of personal possessions; for, being alone, Crooks could leave his things about, and being a stable buck and a cripple, he was more permanent than the other men, and he had accumulated more possessions than he could carry on his back.’

‘Crooks possessed several pairs of shoes, a pair of rubber boots, a big alarm clock and a single-barrelled shotgun.’

‘And he had books, too; a tattered dictionary and a mauled copy of the California civil code for 1905.’

‘There were battered magazines and a few dirty books on a special shelf over his bunk.’

‘A pair of large gold-rimmed spectacles hung from a nail on the wall above his bed.’

‘This room was swept and fairly neat, for Crooks was a proud, aloof man. He kept his distance and demanded that other people keep theirs.’

‘His body was bent over to the left by his crooked spine, and his eyes lay deep in his head, and because of their depth seemed to glitter with intensity.’

‘His lean face was lined with deep black wrinkles, and he had thin, pain-tightened lips which were lighter than his face.’

Chapter 4 (when Lennie appears in his room)

‘For a moment Crooks did not see him, but on raising his eyes he stiffened and a scowl came on his face.’

“You got no right to come in my room. This here’s my room. Nobody got any right in here but me.”

“I ain’t wanted in the bunk house, and you ain’t wanted in my room.”

“Cause I’m black. They play cards in there, but I can’t play because I’m black. They say I stink. Well, I tell you, you all of you stink to me.”

‘Crooks scowled, but Lennie’s disarming smile defeated him.’

“Come on in and set a while.”

‘His tone was a little more friendly.’

“I ain’t a southern negro.”

“I was born right here in California. My old man had a chicken ranch.”

"The white kids come to play at our place, an' sometimes I went to play with them, and some of them was pretty nice."

"There wasn't another coloured family for miles around. And now there ain't a coloured man on this ranch an' there's just one family in Soledad."

"If I say something, why it's just a nigger saying it."

'This is just a nigger talkin', an a busted-back nigger.'

Chapter 4 (to Lennie)

'He leaned forward excitedly.'

"This is just a nigger talkin', an' a busted-back nigger. So it don't mean nothing, see? You couldn't remember it anyways. I seen it over an' over- a guy talkin' to another guy and it don't make no difference if he don't hear or understand. The thing is, they're talkin', or they're settin' still not talkin'. It don't make no difference, no difference."

'His excitement had increased until he pounded his knee with this hand.'

'His voice grew soft and persuasive.'

"S'pose George don't come back no more. S'pose he took a powder and just ain't coming back. What'll you do then?"

"I said s'pose George went into town tonight and you never heard of him no more."

'Crooks pressed forward some kind of private victory.'

'Crooks' face lighted with pleasure in his torture. "Nobody can't tell what a guy'll do," he observed calmly.'

'Crooks bored in on him. "Want me ta tell ya what'll happen? They'll take ya to the booby hatch. They'll tie ya up with a collar, like a dog.'"

'Crooks saw the danger as it approached him. He edged back on his bunk to get out of the way. "I was just supposin'," he said. "George ain't hurt. He's all right. He'll be back all right.'"

"S'pose you didn't have nobody. S'pose you couldn't go into the bunk house and play rummy 'cause you was black."

"S'pose you had to sit out here an' read books."

"Books ain't no good. A guy needs somebody – to be near him."

"A guy goes nuts if he ain't got nobody."

"I tell ya a guy gets lonely an' he gets sick."

'The stable buck went on dreamily, "I remember when I was a little kid on my old man's chicken ranch. Had two brothers. They was always near me, always there.'"

"Had a strawberry patch. Had an alfalfa patch. Used to turn the chickens out in the alfalfa on a sunny morning."

Chapter 4 (in response to Lennie and the dream)

"You're nuts."

'Crooks was scornful.'

"I see hundreds of men come by on the road an' on the ranches with their bindles on their back an' that same damn thing in their heads. Hundreds of them."

"They come, an' they quit an' go on; an' every damn one of em's got a little piece of land in his head. An' never a God damn one of 'em ever gets it."

Chapter 4 (when Candy appears)

"Come on in. If ever'body's comin' in, you might just as well."

'It was difficult for Crooks to conceal his pleasure with anger.'

“And a manure pile under the window. Sure, it’s swell.”

Candy: “I been here a long time... An’ Crooks been here a long time. This’s the first time I ever been in his room.”

Chapter 4 (dreams)

‘Crooks interrupted brutally. “You guys is just kiddin’ yourself. You’ll talk about it a hell of a lot, but you won’t get no land.”’

“Seems like ever’ guy got land in his head.”

“I seen too many guys with land in their head. They never get none under their hand.”

“I never seen a guy really do it.”

“I seen guys nearly crazy with loneliness for land, but ever’ time a whore house or blackjack game took what it takes.”

“If you...guys would want a hand to work for nothing – just his keep, why I’d come an’ lend a hand. I ain’t so crippled I can’t work like a son-of-a-bitch if I want to.”

Chapter 4 (with Curley’s wife)

‘Crooks had retired into the protective dignity of the negro.’

‘Crooks stood up from his bunk and faced her. “I had enough,” he said coldly. “You got no rights comin’ in a coloured man’s room.”’

Curley’s wife: “Listen, Nigger” ... “You know what I can do to you if you open your trap?”

‘Crooks seemed to grow smaller, and he pressed himself against the wall.’

“Yes, ma’am.”

Curley’s wife: “Well, you keep your place then, Nigger. I could get you strung up on a tree so easy it ain’t even funny.”

‘Crooks had reduced himself to nothing. There was no personality, no ego – nothing to arouse either like or dislike.’

‘He said, “Yes, ma’am,” and his voice was toneless.’

Chapter 4 (when Curley’s wife has gone)

‘Crooks seemed to come slowly out of the layers of protection he had put on.’

‘Crooks avoided the whole subject now.’ (This in relation to joining the others.)

“Maybe you guys better go.”

“I ain’t sure I want you in here no more. A coloured man got to have some rights even if he don’t like ‘em.”

“Well, jus’ forget it... I didn’t mean it. Jus’ foolin’. I wouldn’t want to go no place like that.”

Lennie: Key Quotations

Chapter 1

‘a huge man, shapeless of face, with large, pale eyes, with wide, sloping shoulders’

‘dragging his feet a little, the way a bear drags his paws’

“I forgot,” Lennie said softly. “I tried not to forget. Honest to God I did, George.”



Chapter 3

"I ain't saying he's bright. He ain't. But I say he's a God damn good worker." (George)

"He's a nice fella." (Slim)

"Lennie's a God damn nuisance most of the time." (George)

"He's jes' like a kid, ain't he." (Slim)

"Tell about the house, George," Lennie begged.

Lennie covered his face with his huge paws and bleated with terror.

"I didn't wanta hurt him," Lennie cried.'

Chapter 4

"You're nuts" said Crooks "You're crazy as a wedge."

Chapter 5

'huge hand'

"Why do you got to get killed? You ain't so little as mice." (He repeats this.)

'He rocked himself back and forth in his sorrow.'

"I like to pet nice things."

"I like to pet nice things with my fingers, sof' things."

'big fingers'

'Lennie was in a panic. His face was contorted.'

'for Lennie had broken her neck'

Chapter 6

'as silently as a creeping bear moves'

'Lennie removed his hat dutifully'

'Lennie giggled with happiness. "An' live on the fatta the lan'."'

'Lennie obeyed him.'

'Lennie begged, "Le's do it now. Le's get that place now."'

George: Key Quotations



Chapter 1

'The first man was small and quick, dark of face, with restless eyes and sharp, strong features. Every part of him was defined: small, strong hands, slender arms, a thin and bony nose.'

George is described as speaking 'sharply' to Lennie.

I could get along so easy and so nice if I didn't have you on my tail. I could live so easy and maybe have a girl.'

George snapped his fingers sharply'

George 'repeated his words rhythmically as though he had said them many times before.'

"Guys like us, that work on ranches, are the loneliest guys in the world. They got no family. They don't belong no place."

'A few beans slipped out of the side of Lennie's mouth. George gestured with his spoon.'

'Good boy! That's fine, Lennie!'

Chapter 2

As they follow Candy into the bunk house: 'Behind him came George, and behind George, Lennie.'

'George was working up a slow anger.'

When the Boss is suspicious: 'George scowled meaningfully at Lennie, and Lennie nodded slowly to show that he understood.'

'George scowled at him, and Lennie dropped his head in shame at having forgotten.'

George broke in loudly, "Oh! I ain't saying he's bright. He ain't. But I say he's a God damn good worker. He can put up a four-hundred-pound bale."

When asked about why they 'quit in Weed', George responds with: "Job was done" and it is said 'promptly.'

"Yeah, you forgot. You always forget, an' I got to talk you out of it." He sat down heavily on his bunk. "Now he's got his eye on us. Now we got to be careful and not make no slips. You keep your big flapper shut after this."

"We travel together," said George coldly.

Curley: "Oh, so it's that way."

George was tense and motionless. "Yeah, it's that way."

George makes Lennie repeat him: "Hide till I come for you. Don't let nobody see you. Hide in the brush by the river. Say that over."

"We kinda look after each other." He indicated Lennie with his thumb. "He ain't bright. Hell of a good worker, though. Hell of a nice fella, but he ain't bright. I've knew him for a long time."

"It's a lot nicer to go around with a guy you know," said George.

Chapter 3

'George's voice was taking on a tone of confession.'

'George stacked the scattered cards and began to lay out his solitaire hand.'

"But you get used to goin' around with a guy an' you can't get rid of him."

'Me an' Lennie's rollin' up a stake.'

"You give me a good whore house every time."

"A guy can go in an' get drunk and get ever'thing outa his system all at once, an' no messes. And he knows how much it's gonna set him back."

"Maybe, we'd have a cow or a goat, and the cream is so God damn thick you got to cut it with a knife and take it out with a spoon."

"We'd belong there."

About the dream: "We'll do her."

"Get him, Lennie."

'He cupped his hands around his mouth and yelled, "Get 'im, Lennie!"'

Chapter 5

"I think I knowed from the very first. I think I knowed we'd never do her."

Chapter 6

"Guys like us got no fambly. They make a little stake an' they blow it in. They ain't got nobody in the world that gives a hoot in hell about 'em."

'Lennie obeyed him. George looked down at the gun.'

"I ain't mad. I never been mad, an' I ain't now. That's a thing I want ya to know."

Isolation and Loneliness

George and Lennie

- * Different from the other ranch hands, “we got somebody to talk to that gives a damn about us” because they have each other.
- * George enjoys the dream of the two friends owning land together as much as Lennie “An’ if a fren’ come along....we’d say, “Why don’t you spen’ the night?”
- * George tells Slim, “I seen the guys that go around the ranches alone. That ain’t no good”, revealing that he benefits by avoiding their loneliness. He says that he and Lennie “got kinda used to each other” and “it’s nicer to go around with a guy you know.”
- * George tells Slim how he once used Lennie for fun, but he learned his lesson after an incident in the river and “I ain’t done nothing like that no more.” He protects and defends Lennie, for example not allowing Slim to call him “cuckoo”, proudly telling the Boss that “he can put up more grain alone than most pairs can” and not allowing Curley to beat him up.
- * Lennie, despite being slow and easily confused, is sure of this friendship, answering Crooks’ threat that George might abandon him, “George wouldn’t do nothing like that.”
- * Lennie is also protective of George “Ain’t nobody goin’ to talk no hurt to George.”
- * When he kills Lennie, George makes sure that he dies happy, Lennie’s last words being, “Le’s get that place now” as George pulls the trigger behind his head.

Curley’s Wife

- * In the first meeting, Steinbeck stresses how incongruous her clothes and appearance are, with her “full, rouged lips”, “heavily made up” eyes, “red fingernails” and “red mules on the insteps of which were little bouquets of red ostrich feathers.” She is immediately isolated, partly by being the only female here and also by being the sort of woman who would not easily fit in on a hard-working ranch. Steinbeck makes her seem more friendless and remote by never giving her a name.
- * This is the first of several visits to the bunkhouse, always claiming that she is looking for Curley, but she is clearly looking for company.
- * The men know that, as Curley’s wife, she is too dangerous to befriend and so they are never chatty, and just want her to leave. George has to teach this to Lennie, telling him to “leave her be.”
- * On Saturday night, she wanders in to the barn where there is a gathering of those excluded from going into town. Though she knows Curley has gone to the cat-house, she asks if he is here: clearly, she is lonely.
- * She announces her isolation to these men, “Think I don’t like to talk to somebody ever’ once in a while? Think I like to stick in that house alla time?”
- * She lashes out viciously because they do not want her to talk to them, calling them “a bunch of bindle stiffs” and claiming that she is only here because “They ain’t nobody else.”
- * In the barn with Lennie she pleads, “I never get to talk to nobody. I get awful lonely.” She is, perhaps, more friendless than anyone else.
- * As she realises that she can talk to Lennie, she confides that she only married Curley to get away from home. The dream world that she lives in, the belief that she could have been a film star, only isolates her further: her real world is lonely and miserable whilst her dream is unattainable

Candy

- * His dog is his company and his equivalent of a friend, "I had 'im since he was a pup."
- * The other men, all loners and migrant workers, cannot understand the idea of friendship and simply want the dog shot because it is no longer useful and is a nuisance in the bunkhouse.
- * They do not recognise, nor sympathise with, Candy's affection for the dog as he pleads with them to let the subject drop, "I'm so used to him" and "he was the best damn sheepdog I ever seen."
- * He offers his money to George and Lennie to buy the property because "I ain't got no relatives nor nothing."
- * He knows that his future is more loneliness and then death, "They'll can me purty soon...I won't have no place to go to."
- * When Crooks sneers at the idea of owning their own place, his answer shows the comfort he gains from his new friends and the end to loneliness, "we gonna do it...Me and Lennie and George."
- * The importance of friendship and the self-esteem it now gives to him is also shown in the way that he answers back to Curley's wife when she insults him and Crooks and Lennie, "We got fren's, that's what we got."
- * Seeing the collapse of his dream, he takes out his anger on Curley's wife's corpse, "You wasn't no good....I could of hoed the garden and washed dishes for them guys" but now there is only his lonely old aged existence on the ranch.

The Ranch and the Itinerant/Migrant Workers

- * The ranch is isolated as suggested by Lennie and George's long walk to reach there and by the town's name Soledad, the Spanish for "loneliness."
- * This remoteness is further emphasised by the fact that the Steinbeck's location never changes: the reader hears of, but never sees, the men going "into town" and of Curley's going to a doctor when his hand is smashed.
- * The Boss is suspicious of George because he is unaccustomed to the idea of friendship among the men- Page 43, "I never seen one guy take so much trouble for another guy."
- * The workers are all nomadic and solitary, like the man used George's bed before him, "he just quit, the way a guy will....just wanted to move."
- * When telling the details of the dream to Lennie, George describes ranch workers as "the loneliest guys in the world" with "no family" and "nothing to look ahead to."
- * Slim talks to George of the rarity of guys travelling together and being friends "I don't know why. Maybe ever'body in the whole damn world is scared of each other."
- * The men on the ranch are all passing through except Candy and Crooks who are forced to stay because of their disabilities. No-one seems to have a family and they all go to town to pay for the temporary company of women.

Most Adaptable Quotations

<p><u>“Tart”</u> Curley’s wife, prejudice, Candy, women</p>	<p><u>“Weak ones”</u> Curley’s wife, Lennie, Candy, Crooks, prejudice, loneliness, weakness</p>	<p><u>“Prince of the ranch”</u> Slim, power, strength and weakness, masculinity, freedom</p>	<p><u>“I get so lonely”</u> Curley’s wife, loneliness, prejudice, women, power, strength and weakness</p>	<p><u>“Scared of each other”</u> Loneliness, Slim, friendship, strength and weakness</p>
<p><u>“Lousy ‘ol sheep”</u> Candy, strength and weakness, power, prejudice, loneliness, harsh and cruel world</p>	<p><u>“She’s gonna make a mess”</u> George, Curley’s wife, Lennie, prejudice, women</p>	<p><u>“I ain’t wanted”</u> Crooks, prejudice, loneliness, strength and weakness, power, harsh and cruel world</p>	<p><u>“A guy goes nuts if he ain’t got nobody”</u> Crooks, loneliness, friendship, harsh and cruel world</p>	<p><u>“Her body flopped like a fish”</u> Curley’s wife, Lennie, strength and weakness, violence</p>
<p><u>“With us it ain’t like that”</u> George, Lennie, friendship, loneliness</p>	<p><u>“You ain’t wanted here”</u> Candy, Curley’s wife, prejudice, loneliness, power</p>	<p><u>“Nobody gets no land”</u> Crooks, dreams, freedom, harsh and cruel world</p>	<p><u>“His fist lost in Lennie’s paw”</u> Curley, Lennie, power, strength and weakness, violence, masculinity</p>	<p><u>“Well, you keep your place”</u> Curley’s wife, Crooks, prejudice, power, strength and weakness, harsh and cruel world</p>
<p><u>“Guys like us are the loneliest guys in the world”</u> George, Lennie, friendship, loneliness</p>	<p><u>“All but old Candy”</u> Candy, loneliness, prejudice, strength and weakness</p>	<p><u>“You hadda”</u> Slim, George, strength and weakness, power, masculinity, freedom</p>	<p><u>“Suddenly apprehensive”</u> Curley’s wife, women, Curley, power, freedom, prejudice,</p>	<p><u>“She turned on him in scorn”</u> Curley’s wife, Crooks, prejudice, violence, women, power</p>

Of Mice and Men: Extract Question

Look closely at the way Crooks speaks and behaves here. What does it reveal about his state of mind? [10]

He leaned forward excitedly. "This is just a nigger talkin', an' a busted-back nigger. So it don't mean nothing, see? You couldn't remember it anyways. I seen it over an' over- a guy talkin' to another guy and it don't make no difference if he don't hear or understand. The thing is, they're talkin', or they're settin' still not talkin'. It don't make no difference, no difference." His excitement had increased until he pounded his knee with this hand. "George can tell you screwy things, and it don't matter. It's just the talking. It's just bein' with another guy. That's all." He paused.

His voice grew soft and persuasive. "S'pose George don't come back no more. S'pose he took a powder and just ain't coming back. What'll you do then?"

Lennie's attention came gradually to what had been said. "What?" he demanded.

"I said s'pose George went into town tonight and you never heard of him no more." Crooks pressed forward some kind of private victory. "Just s'pose that," he repeated.

"He won't do it," Lennie cried. "George wouldn't do nothing like that. I been with George a long a time. He'll come back tonight-" But the doubt was too much for him. "Don't you think he will?"

Crooks' face lighted with pleasure in his torture. "Nobody can't tell what a guy'll do," he observed calmly. "Le's say he wants to come back and can't. S'pose he gets killed or hurt so he can't come back."

Lennie struggled to understand. "George won't do nothing like that," he repeated. "George is careful. He won't get hurt. He ain't never been hurt, 'cause he's careful."

"Well, s'pose, jus' s'pose he don't come back. What'll you do then?"

Lennie's face wrinkled with apprehension. "I don' know. Say, what you doin' anyways?" he cried. "This ain't true. George ain't got hurt."

Crooks bored in on him. "Want me ta tell ya what'll happen? They'll take ya to the booby hatch. They'll tie ya up with a collar, like a dog."

Suddenly Lennie's eyes centered and grew quiet, and mad. He stood up and walked dangerously toward Crooks. "Who hurt George?" he demanded. Crooks saw the danger as it approached him. He edged back on his bunk to get out of the way. "I was just supposin'," he said. "George ain't hurt. He's all right. He'll be back all right."

Of Mice and Men: Extract Question

Look closely at the way Crooks speaks and behaves here. What does it reveal about his state of mind? [10]

This question covers assessment objectives AO1 (50%) and AO2 (50%).

For 8-10 marks

Answers will be assured, evaluative and analytical. Candidates will confidently explore the language of the extract to support an imaginative, sometimes original interpretation of the character's presentation. Detailed reference to the effect of specific words and phrases, as well as reference to the impact of behaviour will be explored.

Sample Answer

When Crooks is seen in this extract, which takes place in Chapter Four of the novel, he is alone in his room with Lennie. At the start of this extract, the reader can see how Crooks is anticipating something with glee, as the adverb 'excitedly' reveals. When he then moves on to antagonise Lennie and cause him worry and misery by suggesting that George "just ain't coming back", the reader can see that Lennie's panic is the result that Crooks desires. This suggests that Crooks is quite bitter, mean, and is rather a bully, as he is fully aware that Lennie is weaker than him, as he previously scorned, "You're nuts", yet takes advantage of his superiority.

His manner is described as 'soft and persuasive', which creates the image of perhaps a figure of consciousness. It is as if he is maybe trying to voice some of Lennie's personal insecurities. This highlights that Crooks' state of mind is rather dark and cruel, as he takes his own grief and isolation out on innocent Lennie.

Crooks repeatedly questions Lennie on what he would do if George didn't come back, as he says many times "S'pose George don't come back." This repetition displays how the cruel aspect of Crooks' mind really wants to affect Lennie and cause him worry. He is aware of the dependent nature of Lennie upon George, yet he takes advantage of this knowledge. This supports just how cruel he is.

When Lennie becomes distressed, as the verb 'cried' informs the reader, Crooks observes this despair 'calmly'. This adverb highlights how Crooks is satisfied with Lennie's reactions, indicating that this was the desired result. This reveals how Crooks wanted to cause Lennie misery, as perhaps the other characters have done to him, suggesting that he is vengeful and bitter.

The reader becomes aware that Crooks' comments are just part of the cruel amusement for himself, as he states in a declarative sentence: "I was just supposing." The way in which he retracts his former jabbing "What ifs" when Lennie becomes mad, reveals how he was merely taking advantage of Lennie's weak spot: his mental ability. However, when presented with Lennie's strength, 'Crooks saw the danger.' This reveals that Crooks merely wanted to take advantage of Lennie's childlike mentality to give himself some pleasure, indicating that his own state of mind is bitter, vengeful and twisted.

10/10

Past Essay Questions

January 2015

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

'*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?

June 2015

How does John Steinbeck use the character of Candy to highlight some aspects of American society in the 1930s?

How does John Steinbeck present the harsh world of the ranch in *Of Mice and Men*? Remember to support your answer with reference to the novel and to comment on its social, historical and cultural context.

January 2016

Show how John Steinbeck uses the character of Curley to highlight some aspects of American society in the 1930s.

'There are no heroes in *Of Mice and Men*.' How far do you agree with this statement? Remember to refer to the novel's social, cultural and historical context in your answer

June 2016

Show how John Steinbeck uses the character of Lennie to highlight some aspects of American society in the 1930s.

'Real friendship is impossible in the grim world John Steinbeck creates in *Of Mice and Men*.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? Remember to refer to the social, historical and cultural context of the novel in your answer.

January 2017

Show how John Steinbeck uses the character of Crooks to highlight some aspects of American society in the 1930s.

To what extent does violence, or the threat of violence, affect relationships in *Of Mice and Men*? Remember to support your answer with reference to the novel and to comment on its social, historical and cultural context.

June 2017

How is the relationship between George and Lennie presented in *Of Mice and Men*? Remember to support your answer with reference to the novel and to comment on its social, cultural and historical context.

'Dreams in *Of Mice and Men* offer the characters nothing but false hope.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? Remember to support your answer with reference to the novel and to comment on its social, cultural and historical context.

January 2018

In Curley's wife, Steinbeck has created a character who brings all her troubles on herself.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? Remember to support your answer with reference to the novel and to comment on its social, historical and cultural context.

The world of the ranch in *Of Mice and Men* is a difficult place for weak or vulnerable people. How does Steinbeck show this in the novel? Remember to support your answer with reference to the novel and to comment on its social, historical and cultural context.

June 2018

How does John Steinbeck use the character of George to highlight some aspects of American society in the 1930s?

'American society in the 1930s robbed people of their ability to form important relationships.' To what extent do you agree with this statement?

