

GCSE (9–1)
Exemplar Candidate Work

ENGLISH LITERATURE

J352
For first teaching in 2015

**Component 01: Exploring modern
and literary heritage texts**
Section B: 19th century prose
Sample script – Jane Eyre

Version 1

Introduction

This resource has been produced by a senior member of the GCSE (9–1) English Literature examining team to offer teachers an insight into how the assessment objectives are applied. Here is an example of a response to the sample extract based question on Jane Eyre, to illustrate with commentary how questions in this section of the paper might be rewarded.

Please note that this resource is provided for advice and guidance only and does not in any way constitute an indication of grade boundaries or endorsed answers.

The sample assessment material for these answers and commentary can be found on the GCSE (9–1) English Literature web page and accessed via the following link: <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-english-literature-j352-from-2015/>

The exemplars in this document have been retyped for ease of reading, but are taken from real candidate work and therefore include the original spelling and grammatical errors made by the candidates at the time.

SAMPLE SCRIPT

Explore how Brontë presents passion and violence, in this extract and elsewhere in the novel.

[40]

Charlotte Brontë shows passion and violence in quite a few ways¹ in this extract. Throughout the novel she uses explanatory vocabulary which makes you think hard about what Brontë is trying to show in the character or event that she is describing. This passage in particular definitely portrays hidden sides of the characters through the way she writes, vocabulary she uses and the sentence structure she does. It is an intriguing way to present characters and events.²

Brontë, in the passage, uses passionate and violent language to show those characteristics in Bertha, Rochester's wife. The way she uses a range of vocabulary, even to describe objects and places, make this whole extract feel haunted. "There was a demonic laugh – low, suppressed and deep – uttered, as it seemed"³ the fact that she uses the words like 'low' and 'suppressed' makes this character, almost immediately, seem like a threat⁴. The evil laugh being made questions Jane as she hears it. "The goblin-laughter"⁵ she says in this bit that Bertha has a laugh like a goblin – a creature you do not wish to meet⁶. Brontë still makes Jane wonder what this mysterious person is, what they are doing and why. The mysterious, questionable side of it, leaves the reader wanting to go on⁷, and Jane left in fear of what was going to happen next, whether it was bad or not.

"and all was still"⁸ The stillness in this section brought silence, and along with silence came passion. "is she possessed with a devil?" Using a devil and the facing of possession allowed the element of violence to begin, with a devil being an evil myth⁹ following with the violence of the thought. The passion used within the writing was shown in ways the event was written out, the order of how things happened and the vocabulary to go with it.

Brontë brings the feelings of the characters into her writing¹⁰. She says Jane's thoughts and her planning of her following actions. She uses speech in it, which shows how the characters react. "thought I" you know the passion that is created in this extract with the thoughts and beliefs of the characters with the present and past events that have occurred.

The violence that Brontë manages to present in this extract and throughout this novel is powerful, the ways she uses certain events to portray violence very well. "I became further aware of a strong smell of burning" You can tell from this quotation has made a start to a very passionate event, along with violence within, assisting it. "Tongues of flame darted round the bed. The curtains were on fire."¹¹ Here in this quotation it is said fire was the next event.

Fire is a violent and yet a very painful suffering. The way the flames devour everything around them and harm everything which is its victim or one which is trying to fight it. "Tongues of flame darted round the bed"¹² using the word 'darted'¹³ showed what a powerful killing method fire was, how fast it could damage everything. "the sheets were kindling" the one which the fire was so violent and strong could destroy one and many things.

¹ A general introduction which links to the question, but does not develop any clear points.

² AO1: develops a straightforward personal response to the text.

³ AO1: a valid personal response.

⁴ AO2: identifies vocabulary and offers reasonable explanation of effect.

⁵ AO1: relevant support from the text – quotes from the given passage.

⁶ AO2: simple comment on language but not developed.

⁷ A generic comment, which doesn't address AO2

⁸ AO1: good choice of quotation but does not develop a comment to explore the tension created.

⁹ AO3: attempts to link 19th century contextual ideas with the language of the passage.

¹⁰ AO2: suggests awareness of narrative technique but not developed.

¹¹ AO1: selects a relevant quotation, but the comments are general and assertive.

¹² AO1: repetitive use of quotation.

¹³ AO1: effectively highlights choice of word and offers a reasonable explanation of effect.

Jane's religious passion¹⁴ still comes in to this outrageous, disastrous event. With the way she extinguished the flames "and by God's aid". Her belief that God helped her through it is passionate and believing¹⁵. With different elements of themes and genre's throughout the novel, and within even just that extract.

Charlotte Brontë shows passion and violence very well throughout the novel¹⁶ and in this extract. It is very efficient with her writing.

¹⁴ AO3: a relevant comment about context.

¹⁵ AO3 supported by relevant quotation from the passage.

¹⁶ No references to the wider text weakens the response considerably.

Overall response comment

This is solid level 3 work – had the candidate referred to the wider text, it may have been assessed at level 4.



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