

GCSE (9–1)

Exemplar Candidate Work

ENGLISH LITERATURE

J352

For first teaching in 2015

**Component 01: Exploring modern
and literary heritage texts**
Section A: Modern texts
Sample Script – Animal Farm

Version 1



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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.

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 two-part sample question on *Animal Farm*, with illustration of how questions in this section of the paper might be answered and some commentary on the factors that contribute to overall levels.

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/>

SAMPLE SCRIPT

Animal Farm by George Orwell and *Silver: Return to Treasure Island* by Andrew Motion

Read the two extracts below and then answer both part a) and part b).

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on part a) and 30 minutes on part b).

For part a), you should focus only on the extracts here rather than referring to the rest of your studied text.

a) Compare how the effects of threats and violence are presented in these two extracts.

You should consider:

- the situations faced by the victims of threats and violence
- how the victims react to their situations
- how the writers' use of language and techniques creates effects.

[20]

AND

b) Explore another moment in *Animal Farm* that shows how the pigs control the other animals.

[20]

Part a

In this extract of *Animal Farm*, the animals are watching their 'comrades' being publically trialled and murdered on the spot.¹ Their leader Napoleon leads these trials, with his dogs to that act as his guards as well as the murderers. The dogs only act on Napoleon's command and have not mercy or are affected by what little conscience they have before they make the kill. The pigs in the show trials were already willing to argue with Napoleon and were once brave enough to protest against Napoleon's idea of abolishing the Sunday meetings. In the trial, they confessed of their terrible deeds which linked with the tractor Snowball. Once they've been ruthlessly killed on the spot without explanation from them, Napoleon demands all the other animals to confess any crimes they've done. Any animal is able to confess for what they've done. Three hens, who as well, disobeyed Napoleon before, confessed and were slaughtered; all hens saying they did a crime linked with Snowball.*

In the second extract, Natty has been taken prisoner by a pirate named Smirke.² Unlike the *Animal Farm* trials, she's being interrogated. Smirke is trying to get the information from her, which she isn't willing to give, but in *Animal Farm*, the guilty animals never refused to confess for their crimes. Also, Smirke is interrogating her by himself, unaccompanied by anyone else who might be there. Napoleon was with his dogs when the trials happened. Being alone suggests that Smirke is willing to get his hands dirty³ and kill her himself if needed; Napoleon doesn't like doing the killing himself⁴ and has the dogs do it for him. Natty is alone with him as well so it's only her who needs to be interrogated. The animals on *Animal Farm* however are all watching and any 'guilty' animals are willing to confess. Similarly, both leaders are performing the interrogation trials, making it seem like they want to make it known how much power they have⁵. Another difference through is the type of abuse inflicted here. The type of injury Natty has is mental as Smirke insults her father but the animals on the farm are slaughtered with the dogs tearing their throats out.

¹ AO1: useful introduction which offers a thorough and detailed account of the extract. Shows some insightful understanding.

² AO1: clear understanding of context and develops comment on how it affects audience response.

AO1 and AO3: immediately links and compares the unseen extract with well organised points.

³ AO1: immediately links and compares the unseen extract with well organised points.

⁴ AO1: shows clear understanding.

⁵ AO3: convincing understanding of context informs the response to both extracts.

The types of reactions the victims have are very different⁶. The animals on the farm make no protest or arguments as their friends are killed in plain sight, even though there are so many of them clustered together. Whereas Natty has the bravery to be stubborn while being questioned by the formidable pirate, and not actually answer his questions and submit. Napoleon is ruthless in this ways in which he deals with his subjects and has no mercy on the animals who were guilty. This is shown when the dogs ‘promptly tore their throats out’. The word ‘promptly’ suggests Napoleon spent no time thinking about their sorry lives and use of the farm, but **used them as puppets to terrify his audience**⁷. On the other hand, Smirke does not murder Natty on the spot. He’s impatient but thinks about her use and the valuable information she might have. This is shown in the quotes ‘tapping the blade of his dagger’. **He’s impatient for the answers but might be ready to strike if she proves useless**⁸. The animals on the farm are already afraid of their dictator, Napoleon, but watching these show trials and displays of power terrify them, so much as if they’ve been turn to stone: silent and still. **But Natty, alone and by herself doesn’t seem very afraid but actually quite bored**⁹. She watches the ‘clouds travel across the sky’ while being threatened by the pirate. It’s as if she has all the time in the world.

In *Animal Farm*, the writer uses **barbaric language**¹⁰ to create the effect of threat and violence. Words like ‘trembling’, ‘tore’, ‘slaughtered’ and ‘terrible’ are used to enhance what horrible situation the animals are and **how ruthless Napoleon**¹¹ is. He also uses **violent imagery to display the violence these animals are experiencing**¹². The quote ‘they too were slaughtered’ who how graphic and violent the situation is. It creates terrible images in the reader’s mind which makes us fear for the animals. * 2

Candidate footnotes for part a

* The murder trials Napoleon does are much like the trials Stalin did in order to **intimidate his subjects and display his power**¹³. It also swiftly eliminated any enemies if his regime as it would eradicate thoughts of protest from the audience as they fear for their lives.

*2 In the *Silver: Return to Treasure* extract, the writer **uses exclamation marks and Smirke’s speech to create the effect of threat and violence**¹⁴. Smirke continually shouts and rants to Natty. He shouts ‘I’ve sailed with Captain Flint! I’ve been the friend of old Barbecue Silver! The increased volume in his speech/dialogue creates tension and builds up the anticipation as we imagine his rant in our head. **The shouting makes us afraid that Smirke will attack Natty in his moment of fiery anger.**¹⁵

⁶ AO1: key points of comparison inform a well-developed personal response to both extracts.

⁷ AO1 & AO2: thoughtful analysis of language to show insightful understanding.

⁸ AO1: insightful understanding supported by well-chosen quotation.

⁹ AO1: insightful understanding supported by well-chosen quotation.

¹⁰ AO2: some developed analysis of language effects.

¹¹ AO2: considers the effects of language supported by well-chosen references.

¹² AO1: personal response.

¹³ AO3: relevant contextual link to inform ideas.

¹⁴ AO2: thoughtful analysis of language and form to create meanings and effects.

¹⁵ AO1: detailed personal response to the text.

Overall commentary for part a

This is very well organised and confident work: on balance a strong level 5 has been achieved.

Part b

Another moment where the pigs control the other animals¹⁶ is when Squealer, the propaganda machine, is sent out every time Napoleon makes a decision. Squealer is used to convince the inferior and less intelligent animals that Napoleon's choice is always right and beneficial to them¹⁷. Napoleon and Squealer know the animals aren't as smart as pigs¹⁸ and take advantage of their gullibility. For example, Napoleon says all the apples, windfalls and milk are reserved for the pigs' food and are only eaten by the pigs. After establishing animal farm and the rebellion the animals thought that every creature on the farm would live according to equal standards. So when Napoleon made this decision, many animals were confused and bewildered by this sudden exclusion from something they deserved.

Napoleon knowing the animals would silently protest and confuse themselves, sent out his trusted propaganda pig¹⁹ to persuade them that this was the right thing to do. Squealer would use the same tactics again and again to successfully convince the animals. In the beginning of the novel²⁰ the readers were told that Squealer would 'skip from side to side and whisk his tail'²¹ which was said to be very persuasive. Also, due to the pigs' superior intelligence, Squealer would use his wide range of vocabulary in mini-speeches and use difficult words to bemuse his audience²². The animals would agree anyway because the clever words made it sound right. But every time, without fail, Snowball would use his killer question of 'you don't want Jones back?'.²³ The animals would instantly recoil and shudder at the thought of Jones and immediately agree to him, no matter what irrelevant arguments Snowball was making.

Squealer said the apples and milk were 'proven by science'²⁴ to be good for the pigs' health. The pigs should be in top condition and fit for 'work' as their brains needed to function perfectly for the farm otherwise Animal Farm could fall. He also said that the pigs and himself actually disliked eating the foods but needed to as it was for the other animals' own good. They were supposedly sacrificing their happiness²⁵ for the rest of the animals and the animals should be eternally grateful for that.

Again in the last bit of his speech he asked the animals in a terrified voice 'you wouldn't want Jones to come back?'²⁶ The animals of course immediately shook their heads and shuddered at the terrible memory of Jones. They instantly agreed and the apples were thereon reserved for the pigs only. However, the animals fail to see that the pigs right to luxurious items (apples and milk in this case) was nothing to do with the return of Jones.²⁷ The pigs merely want the best of what the farm's got and to live a happy and relaxed life while the other animals live in the harsh condition and barely stay alive as they starve.

¹⁶ AO1: clearly identifies moment from wider text for discussion in part b.

¹⁷ AO1: detailed personal response showing clear understanding.

¹⁸ AO1: shows clear understanding supported by relevant textual details.

¹⁹ AO1: shows clear understanding of how propaganda is used.

²⁰ AO1: further link to wider text.

²¹ AO1: well-selected quotation to support assertion.

²² AO2: some explanation of language but needs support from the text.

²³ AO2: reasonable explanation of use of language but needs further development.

²⁴ AO1: well-selected quotation, neatly embedded.

²⁵ AO1: clear understanding.

²⁶ AO1: relevant textual support.

²⁷ AO1: shows clear understanding.

Overall commentary for part b

This response is level 4 with touches of level 5.

Overall this response is level 5.



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