2.10 Literature: Animal Farm (George Orwell): 1-hour Pack

AQA 8702 · about 60 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Analyse how Orwell presents the relationship between the pigs and the other animals as it changes across the novel.

(Total for Question 1 is 10 marks)

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2 Write about the differences Orwell presents between the pigs and the other animals of the farm.

(Total for Question 2 is 12 marks)

3 Write about how Orwell uses the character of Squealer to explore the theme of language and manipulation, and comment on why Orwell chose to write Animal Farm as an allegory of the Russian Revolution rather than a direct historical account.

(Total for Question 3 is 15 marks)

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4 Write about the narrative significance of the final scene, in which the animals outside the farmhouse window can no longer tell the pigs from the human farmers, and comment on why this ending would have felt especially powerful to readers in 1945.

(Total for Question 4 is 15 marks)

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5 Starting with the animals' expulsion of Mr Jones from the farm, write about how Orwell presents ideas about power across the novel as a whole, and evaluate how far a modern reader might interpret the novel's warning differently from a reader in 1945.

In your response you should discuss:
- how Orwell presents power in this moment and across the novel
- the methods Orwell uses to build his argument
- how far a modern reader's response might differ from a 1945 reader's response

(Total for Question 5 is 30 marks)

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Mark scheme · 2.10 Literature: Animal Farm (George Orwell): 1-hour Pack

Question 1

Level 4 Convincing, well-structured analysis: tracks the relationship from equal, collective leadership through growing privilege to full domination, with judicious textual reference and confident terminology. **9-10**

Level 3 Clear analysis: explains at least two stages of the relationship with relevant textual reference. **6-8**

Level 2 Some analysis: identifies a relevant point about the relationship with some textual reference. **3-5**

Level 1 Simple, limited analysis: makes a simple, undeveloped point with little textual reference. **1-2**

Indicative content:

- immediately after the rebellion, the pigs are presented as natural, accepted organisers because of their intelligence, and the other animals willingly defer to them out of gratitude and practicality
- the pigs' early claim to the milk and windfall apples, justified by Squealer as necessary for their brainwork, marks the first small step from equal leadership towards special privilege
- as the novel progresses, open debate (such as the disagreements between Snowball and Napoleon) disappears entirely, replaced by one-way announcements from the pigs that the other animals are expected to simply accept
- by the novel's end the physical separation is total, with the pigs living in the farmhouse, walking on two legs and socialising with human farmers, while the other animals remain outside, working and undernourished, showing the relationship has inverted the original promise of equality

Question 2

Level 4 Convincing, well-structured response: sustained analysis of the differences between the pigs and the other animals through several characters/methods, with judicious quotation and confident subject terminology. **10-12**

Level 3 Clear response: explains the differences through at least two characters/methods, with relevant quotation. **7-9**

Level 2 Some response: identifies relevant moments relating to the differences with some supporting quotation. **4-6**

Level 1 Simple, limited response: makes a simple, undeveloped point with little or no quotation. **1-3**

Indicative content:

- the pigs' superior intelligence and literacy, established from early in the novel, gives them practical control over information and decision making that the other animals cannot independently verify
- Boxer and Clover's hardworking, trusting natures contrast sharply with the pigs' growing self interest, presenting the ordinary animals as loyal to the farm's original ideals even as the pigs abandon them
- Benjamin the donkey's cynical, largely silent awareness of what is happening contrasts with the other animals' willingness to believe Squealer's explanations, suggesting some animals see the truth but feel powerless to change it
- the sheep's mindless repetition of simple slogans, easily redirected by the pigs whenever debate becomes inconvenient, presents a contrast between animals who think for themselves and those who can be used as an unthinking tool of control
- by the novel's end, physical differences (the pigs walking upright, wearing clothes, drinking in the farmhouse) make literal the deeper differences in privilege and power that have grown between the two groups

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Question 3

Level 4 Convincing, critical response: sustained, perceptive analysis of Squealer's function across the whole novel with judicious quotation and confident terminology; contextual point about allegory integrated fully into the argument. **12-15**

Level 3 Clear, relevant response: explains Squealer's role through several methods with relevant quotation; makes a clear, appropriate contextual point. **8-11**

Level 2 Some, generic response: identifies relevant moments relating to Squealer with some quotation; makes a generic or partly relevant contextual comment. **4-7**

Level 1 Simple, limited response: makes a simple, undeveloped point with little or no quotation; little or no contextual comment. **1-3**

Indicative content:

- Squealer's fluent, persuasive speech is used repeatedly to reframe each new pig privilege as a necessary sacrifice made for the good of the whole farm, showing language used to disguise self interest as service
- his repeated appeal to the animals' fear of Mr Jones's return functions as a rhetorical trick that closes down debate by presenting any criticism of the pigs as a dangerous step back towards the old tyranny
- his role in altering the Seven Commandments and the animals' shared memory of events shows language being used not only to persuade in the moment but to actually rewrite an agreed historical record
- allegory: writing the novel as a fable about farm animals, rather than a direct account of Soviet history, allowed Orwell to expose the mechanisms of propaganda and betrayal in a form that was accessible, memorable and could avoid the direct censorship or political sensitivity a factual account might have faced
- allegory: the simplicity of the animal fable form mirrors the very simplicity used by Squealer and the regime he represents, so the reader experiences, at a smaller scale, how easily a persuasive, simplified story can be used to obscure a much more complicated and troubling truth

Question 4

Level 4 Convincing, critical response: sustained, perceptive analysis of the closing scene's narrative and symbolic significance, with judicious quotation and confident terminology; contextual point about 1945 readers integrated fully. **12-15**

Level 3 Clear, relevant response: explains the significance of the closing scene through at least two methods, with relevant quotation and a clear contextual point. **8-11**

Level 2 Some, generic response: identifies relevant features of the ending with some quotation; makes a generic or partly relevant contextual comment. **4-7**

Level 1 Simple, limited response: makes a simple, undeveloped point with little or no quotation; little or no contextual comment. **1-3**

Indicative content:

- the final scene widens the narrative's focus from the specific fate of one farm to a general statement about how revolutions can end up reproducing the very oppression they set out to destroy
- the animals' inability to distinguish pig from human, watching through a window from outside, positions the reader alongside the excluded, ordinary animals looking in on a betrayal they can see but not prevent
- the visual, physical confusion of pig and human at the end gives literal, symbolic form to an idea developed gradually across the whole novel, that the new rulers have become indistinguishable from the old
- readers in 1945 were living through the final stages of the Second World War and increasingly urgent revelations about Stalin's Soviet Union, a wartime ally whose true nature was only then becoming widely known in Britain, making the ending's warning about betrayed revolutions feel immediate rather than historical
- the novel's initial difficulty finding a publisher, partly because of wartime alliance with the Soviet Union, adds further context to why its clear, damning final image would have felt especially bold and topical on publication

Question 5

Level 4 Compelling, critical evaluation: sustained, sophisticated evaluation of power across the whole novel; judicious, precisely selected references including embedded quotation; perceptive analysis of language, form and structure with consistently precise subject terminology; contextual understanding of 1945 versus modern reception woven seamlessly into the argument. **25-30**

Level 3 Critical, exploratory evaluation: exploratory, critical response with a clear line of argument sustained across the novel; judicious range of references; analyses effects of language, form and structure with precise subject terminology; contextual factors integrated fully where relevant. **17-24**

Level 2 Detailed, well-structured evaluation: consistently clear, detailed evaluation of power; well-chosen range of references; explains effects of language, form and structure with subject terminology used accurately; understanding of relevant context clearly shown. **9-16**

Level 1 Simple or clear evaluation: simple or clear response with some relevant reference; some comment on language/structure with limited or accurate use of subject terminology; some or little awareness of context. **1-8**

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Indicative content:

- the animals' initial expulsion of Mr Jones is presented as a hopeful, collective act of liberation, driven by shared grievance and Old Major's vision, establishing power in the hands of the whole community at the novel's outset
- this collective ownership of power is quickly narrowed as the pigs assume organisational control, justified by their intelligence, showing power beginning to concentrate almost immediately after the old tyranny is removed
- Napoleon's use of the guard dogs to expel Snowball marks a decisive shift from persuasion to force, after which power is maintained increasingly through fear and violence rather than consent
- Squealer's manipulation of language and the repeated alteration of the Seven Commandments show power being secured not only through force but through control of truth and historical memory, a more insidious method that the other animals struggle to resist
- methods: Orwell's simple, fable-like narrative voice, describing atrocities in the same measured tone as everyday farm events, creates an unsettling contrast that highlights the normalisation of abuse of power without needing explicit authorial comment
- methods: the novel's cyclical structure, ending with a scene that visually and thematically echoes its beginning, structurally reinforces the argument that unchecked power tends to reproduce the tyranny it replaces
- evaluation: a reader in 1945, encountering the novel as revelations about Stalin's Soviet Union were only beginning to circulate widely in Britain, was likely to experience the ending as an urgent, topical political warning about a specific and recent betrayal
- evaluation: a modern reader, with fuller historical knowledge of Stalinism already established, may instead read the novel more as a timeless fable about power in general, applying its warning to a wider range of political and institutional contexts rather than one specific historical betrayal
- evaluation, counter-view: despite this shift in emphasis, ongoing modern concerns about propaganda, misinformation and the concentration of power in institutions arguably keep Orwell's core warning as directly resonant for contemporary readers as it was for its original 1945 audience, even if the specific historical trigger is now more distant

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