2.10 Literature: Animal Farm (George Orwell): 30-minute Pack

AQA 8702 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Explain how Orwell uses the character of Squealer to influence the other animals in the period before Snowball is driven from the farm.

(Total for Question 1 is 6 marks)

2 Explain how Orwell presents Napoleon as an unsympathetic character.

(Total for Question 2 is 8 marks)

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3 Write about how Orwell presents the theme of power and corruption in the novel.

(Total for Question 3 is 12 marks)

4 Analyse how Orwell uses structural techniques, such as repeated events and the contrast between the beginning and end of the novel, to build meaning across the story as a whole.

(Total for Question 4 is 8 marks)

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Mark scheme · 2.10 Literature: Animal Farm (George Orwell): 30-minute Pack

Question 1

Level 3 Clear, relevant explanation: analyses how Squealer's persuasive rhetoric, use of rhetorical questions, and appeal to fear of Mr Jones's return are used to control the other animals, with clear reference to the text. **5-6**

Level 2 Some explanation: identifies a relevant method Squealer uses with a generally appropriate comment, with some textual reference. **3-4**

Level 1 Simple, limited explanation: makes a simple or general comment on Squealer with little development. **1-2**

Indicative content:

- Squealer's gift for persuasive, fast talking is repeatedly used to reframe decisions that benefit the pigs as decisions made for the good of every animal
- his use of rhetorical questions, asking the other animals whether they would prefer the return of Mr Jones, exploits the animals' greatest shared fear to silence disagreement
- he exploits the other animals' limited education and poor memories, confidently asserting facts that contradict what some of the animals dimly remember
- his skill lies in never using direct threats, instead making his manipulation sound like reasonable explanation, which makes him harder for the animals to resist or challenge

Question 2

Level 4 Clear, well-supported explanation: analyses specific methods (his use of the guard dogs, the expulsion of Snowball, the executions, his growing personal privilege) with well-chosen textual reference. **7-8**

Level 3 Clear explanation: explains at least two relevant methods with relevant textual reference. **5-6**

Level 2 Some explanation: identifies one relevant method with some textual reference. **3-4**

Level 1 Simple, limited explanation: makes a simple or general comment with little development. **1-2**

Indicative content:

- Napoleon secretly rears a litter of puppies into a private force of guard dogs, presenting him as someone who builds hidden, personal power rather than open, collective leadership
- his use of these dogs to drive Snowball off the farm, followed by his rewriting of Snowball's role in the Battle of the Cowshed, shows a willingness to eliminate rivals and falsify history to secure his own position
- the forced confessions and executions of animals accused of conspiring with Snowball present him as ruthless and willing to use terror to maintain control
- his gradual accumulation of personal privileges, better food, alcohol, and eventually walking on two legs and trading with neighbouring farms, shows a leader who has abandoned the principles he once claimed to champion

Question 3

Level 4 Convincing, well-structured response: sustained analysis of how power and corruption are presented through several characters/methods across the whole novel, with judicious quotation and confident subject terminology. **10-12**

Level 3 Clear response: explains how power and corruption are presented through at least two characters/methods, with relevant quotation. **7-9**

Level 2 Some response: identifies relevant moments relating to power and corruption with some supporting quotation. **4-6**

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

Indicative content:

- the pigs' small early privileges (the milk, the apples, the best of the harvest) establish a pattern in which each new act of self interest is presented by Squealer as necessary rather than corrupt, allowing corruption to grow gradually rather than all at once
- Napoleon's use of the guard dogs to remove Snowball, then to enforce forced confessions and executions, shows physical force replacing persuasion once the pigs' authority is secure enough to no longer need to justify itself
- the repeated alteration of the Seven Commandments shows corruption extending from behaviour into language and law itself, so that the very rules meant to prevent tyranny are used to legitimise it
- the final image of the pigs walking on two legs and becoming indistinguishable from the human farmers they once overthrew presents corruption as total and complete, with power having remade the pigs into the very thing the rebellion was fought against
- the novel allegorises the trajectory of the Russian Revolution, in which an uprising against inequality produced, under Stalin, a new and equally oppressive ruling class

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Question 4

Level 4 Convincing, well-supported analysis: analyses more than one structural technique (repetition of key events, the cyclical framing, the final scene) and their combined effect on meaning, with precise reference and subject terminology.	**7-8**
Level 3 Clear analysis: explains how at least one significant structural technique creates meaning, with relevant reference.	**5-6**
Level 2 Some analysis: identifies a relevant structural technique with a generally appropriate comment.	**3-4**
Level 1 Simple, limited analysis: makes a simple or general comment on structure with little development.	**1-2**

Indicative content:

- the repeated pattern of battles (the Battle of the Cowshed, then the Battle of the Windmill) mirrors real historical cycles of conflict and shows the farm never truly achieving lasting peace under the pigs' rule
- the repeated destruction and rebuilding of the windmill structurally reinforces the theme of continual sacrifice by the ordinary animals for goals that chiefly benefit the pigs
- the novel's cyclical structure, opening with the animals' rebellion against a single tyrannical master and closing with the pigs behaving exactly like that master, structurally argues that the rebellion has achieved nothing lasting
- the final scene, in which the animals outside the farmhouse window can no longer distinguish pig from human, functions as the structural culmination of every earlier small compromise and betrayal shown across the novel

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