2.10 Literature: Animal Farm (George Orwell): Test Pack

AQA 8702 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 List four facts we learn about Old Major and the speech he gives to the animals at the start of the novel.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 Explain how Orwell presents ideas about propaganda and the control of information through the changing of the Seven Commandments.

(Total for Question 2 is 8 marks)

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3 Analyse how Orwell presents the change in Boxer's fortunes across the course of the novel.

(Total for Question 3 is 10 marks)

4 Write about how Orwell presents ideas about class and inequality among the animals, and comment on the significance of the different animal species he chooses to represent different social groups.

(Total for Question 4 is 15 marks)

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Mark scheme · 2.10 Literature: Animal Farm (George Orwell): Test Pack

Question 1

he is an old, prize-winning boar (oe)	**B1**
he shares a dream of a future without human masters	**B1**
he teaches the animals a song about a future free from human rule	**B1**
any other valid fact, e.g. he dies only a few days after giving the speech / he warns the animals about the vices of Man / his speech inspires the animals to plan a rebellion	**B1**

Answer: Any four of: he is an old, respected boar; he describes a dream of animals living free of human control; he teaches the animals a song celebrating that future; he warns them against adopting human habits and vices; he dies shortly afterwards; his ideas directly inspire the later rebellion.

Question 2

Level 4 Clear, well-supported explanation: analyses how the repeated, secretive alteration of the commandments demonstrates control over historical record and truth, with well-chosen textual reference and clear understanding of context. **7-8**

Level 3 Clear explanation: explains how the changing commandments reflect propaganda and control of information, with relevant textual reference and some understanding of context. **5-6**

Level 2 Some explanation: identifies a relevant point about the changing commandments with some textual reference. **3-4**

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

Indicative content:

- the commandments are always altered at night and always in the pigs' favour, showing that those with power over the farm's records can rewrite the past to suit the present
- the animals' inability to check the wording for themselves, because most cannot read well, means the written law can be changed without effective challenge
- Squealer's explanations after each change train the animals to distrust their own memories rather than the pigs' honesty, a key technique of controlling a population through information rather than force alone
- Orwell allegorises the Soviet state's rewriting of official history and doctored photographs under Stalin, where inconvenient facts and people were removed from the record to preserve the regime's version of events
- by the novel's end the commandments are reduced to a single altered slogan, showing how gradual, incremental changes can eventually erase an original set of principles entirely

Question 3

Level 4 Convincing, well-structured analysis: tracks Boxer's presentation from his early strength and devotion through to his injury and removal, with judicious textual reference and confident subject terminology. **9-10**

Level 3 Clear analysis: explains at least two stages of Boxer's development with relevant textual reference. **6-8**

Level 2 Some analysis: identifies a relevant stage of Boxer's development with some textual reference. **3-5**

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

Indicative content:

- Boxer is presented early on as the farm's most valuable worker, his strength and loyalty directly enabling the rebellion's early successes and the building of the windmill
- as the pigs' demands increase, Boxer's response is always to work harder rather than to question the fairness of what is being asked of him, showing loyalty hardening into self-destructive exploitation
- his collapse from overwork, immediately followed by the pigs' arrangement to have him taken away in a van clearly marked as belonging to a horse slaughterer, exposes the pigs' willingness to discard even their most devoted supporter once he is no longer useful
- Squealer's false explanation of Boxer's fate to the other animals afterwards shows that even his death is exploited and covered up to protect the pigs' authority

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Question 4

Level 4 Convincing, critical response: sustained, perceptive analysis of class and inequality across several characters and methods, with judicious quotation and confident terminology; contextual point about the choice of species integrated fully.	**12-15**
Level 3 Clear, relevant response: explains how class and inequality are presented through at least two characters/methods, with relevant quotation and a clear contextual point.	**8-11**
Level 2 Some, generic response: identifies relevant moments relating to class and inequality 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 growing gap in food, comfort and labour between the pigs and the other animals presents inequality as something that returns in a new form even after the original human owner and his unequal system are removed
- the sheep's repeated, simple chanting represents an easily led, uneducated section of the population, useful to those in power precisely because they do not question what they repeat
- the choice of pigs, widely regarded as intelligent farm animals, to represent the new ruling class allows Orwell to show a takeover justified by genuine ability that is then abused, rather than a takeover based purely on brute force
- Boxer the carthorse's raw strength and unquestioning labour represents the industrial working class, whose immense contribution to production is shown to be exploited rather than fairly rewarded
- the choice of specific animal species allows Orwell to represent broad social and political groups (the intelligentsia, the working class, the easily influenced masses, the old ruling class represented by the humans) in a compact, immediately recognisable form that does not require readers to know detailed Soviet history to follow the argument

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