2.12 Literature: Lord of the Flies (William Golding): 30-minute Pack

AQA 8702 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Explain how Piggy is presented as an outsider within the group.

(Total for Question 1 is 6 marks)

2 Explain the significance of fire as a symbol across the novel.

(Total for Question 2 is 8 marks)

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3 Analyse the structural choices Golding makes to build tension across the novel as a whole.

(Total for Question 3 is 10 marks)

4 Write about how Golding presents the theme of civilisation versus savagery in the novel.

(Total for Question 4 is 12 marks)

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Mark scheme · 2.12 Literature: Lord of the Flies (William Golding): 30-minute Pack

Question 1

Level 3 Clear, relevant explanation: analyses how Piggy's physical characteristics, speech and treatment by other boys combine to present him as an outsider, with clear reference to specific moments in the novel. **5-6**

Level 2 Some explanation: identifies relevant details about Piggy's appearance or treatment and makes a generally appropriate comment on his outsider status. **3-4**

Level 1 Simple, limited explanation: makes a simple point that Piggy is different or bullied, with little development. **1-2**

Indicative content:

- Piggy's asthma, poor eyesight and overweight build set him apart physically from the fitter, more able-bodied boys
- his nickname, chosen by the other boys against his wishes, immediately marks him as someone whose own preferences are not respected by the group
- his more formal, adult-influenced speech and reliance on logic and rules contrast with the other boys' growing informality, making him seem out of step with the group's direction
- his repeated mistreatment, being mocked, ignored, and eventually a victim of the group's violence, shows how a society under pressure can turn against those who represent reason and civilisation

Question 2

Level 4 Convincing, well-supported explanation: analyses fire's shifting significance (rescue, destruction, hunting) across several key moments, showing a developed understanding of how its meaning changes. **7-8**

Level 3 Clear explanation: explains at least two different significances of fire with clear reference to the novel. **5-6**

Level 2 Some explanation: identifies one significance of fire (e.g. rescue) with a generally appropriate comment. **3-4**

Level 1 Simple, limited explanation: makes a simple point that fire is important, with little development. **1-2**

Indicative content:

- fire begins as a hopeful symbol of rescue and connection to the adult, civilised world beyond the island
- the fire started to signal a ship indirectly causes the first death on the island, introducing the idea that the boys' actions have real, uncontrollable consequences
- as the novel progresses, fire becomes associated with hunting and destruction rather than rescue, reflecting the shift in the group's priorities away from civilisation
- the final, uncontrolled fire that spreads across the island, intended to hunt down Ralph, shows fire completing its transformation from a symbol of hope into a symbol of the boys' capacity for destruction

Question 3

Level 4 Convincing, well-structured analysis: tracks structural choices (opening calm, escalating incidents, cross-cutting between groups, the shock of the ending) across the whole novel, explaining precisely how each builds tension. **9-10**

Level 3 Clear analysis: identifies at least two structural features and explains their effect on tension, with relevant reference to the novel. **6-8**

Level 2 Some analysis: identifies one or two structural features with some supporting reference, though explanation of effect may be limited. **3-5**

Level 1 Simple, limited analysis: makes a simple, undeveloped point about structure. **1-2**

Indicative content:

- the novel opens with a sense of paradise and possibility before gradually introducing signs of disorder, allowing tension to build slowly rather than beginning with immediate danger
- incidents of violence and loss of control escalate in severity across the novel, from minor disobedience, to a serious injury, to two deaths, giving the novel a clear rising structure
- Golding increasingly cuts between Ralph's shrinking group and Jack's growing tribe, using this contrast to heighten the sense of an approaching, inevitable confrontation
- the sudden arrival of the naval officer at the very end of the novel creates an abrupt tonal shift, undercutting the tension built up by the hunt for Ralph and forcing a reappraisal of everything that has happened
- recurring symbols, such as the fire and the conch, are structured to reappear at key moments in changed forms, marking the stages of the boys' decline for the reader

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Question 4

Level 4 Convincing, well-structured response: sustained analysis of how civilisation and savagery are presented through several characters, symbols and events across the whole novel, with confident subject terminology. **10-12**

Level 3 Clear response: explains how civilisation versus savagery is presented through at least two methods, with relevant reference to the novel. **7-9**

Level 2 Some response: identifies relevant moments relating to civilisation versus savagery with some supporting reference, though development may be limited. **4-6**

Level 1 Simple, limited response: makes a simple, undeveloped point about civilisation versus savagery. **1-3**

Indicative content:

- the conch and assemblies represent civilised structures of order and shared decision-making, which are gradually abandoned as the novel progresses
- Jack's tribe develops its own rituals, chants and face paint, presenting an alternative, savage form of social organisation built on fear and hierarchy rather than agreement
- Piggy's reliance on logic, rules and adult authority contrasts sharply with the instinctive, physical behaviour increasingly valued by the majority of the boys
- the boys' uniforms, initially neat school clothing, become torn and abandoned across the novel, providing a visual marker of their movement away from civilised society
- the arrival of the naval officer, himself a symbol of adult civilisation, is used ironically, since he represents a wider adult world simultaneously engaged in a war, suggesting savagery is not confined to the island

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