2.12 Literature: Lord of the Flies (William Golding): Test Pack

AQA 8702 · about 35 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 List four of the rules or agreements the boys make for themselves during the first assembly on the island.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 Explain how Golding presents the conch as a symbol of order and civilisation.

(Total for Question 2 is 6 marks)

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3 Analyse how Golding presents Ralph's development as a leader across the novel as a whole.

(Total for Question 3 is 10 marks)

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4 'The real beast in Lord of the Flies is not a monster on the island, but human nature itself.'

Using this statement as a starting point, write about how Golding explores ideas about human nature in the novel.

(Total for Question 4 is 20 marks)

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Mark scheme · 2.12 Literature: Lord of the Flies (William Golding): Test Pack

Question 1

only the boy holding the conch may speak	**B1**
a signal fire must be lit and kept burning, to attract passing ships	**B1**
Ralph is chosen/agreed as chief	**B1**
any other valid agreed rule, e.g. littluns must use a particular area as a toilet, or meetings are to be called by blowing the conch	**B1**

Answer: Any four of: only the conch-holder may speak; a signal fire must be kept burning; Ralph is agreed as chief; a designated toilet area is agreed; meetings are to be summoned by the conch.

Question 2

Level 3 Clear, relevant explanation: analyses how the conch's use (calling assemblies, granting the right to speak) presents it as a symbol of order, tracking a clear change in its authority across the novel. **5-6**

Level 2 Some explanation: identifies the conch's role in assemblies or speaking rights and offers a generally appropriate comment on order/civilisation. **3-4**

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

Indicative content:

- the conch is used to call the boys together and to grant the sole right to speak, making it a physical embodiment of democratic procedure
- its authority is initially respected by nearly all the boys, showing how readily a group will accept a shared symbol of order when a society is first being formed
- as the novel progresses, the conch's authority is increasingly ignored, talked over or physically left behind, tracking the wider collapse of civilised behaviour on the island
- its eventual destruction removes the last formal symbol of shared rules, marking the point at which organised society on the island effectively ends

Question 3

Level 4 Convincing, well-structured analysis: tracks Ralph's leadership from confident election, through mounting difficulty, to near-total isolation, with confident, well-integrated reference across the whole novel. **9-10**

Level 3 Clear analysis: explains at least two stages of Ralph's development as a leader with clear reference to the novel. **6-8**

Level 2 Some analysis: identifies one relevant stage in Ralph's leadership with some supporting reference. **3-5**

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

Indicative content:

- Ralph is elected chief early in the novel largely because of his physical presence and his possession of the conch, suggesting his authority initially rests on circumstance as much as ability
- he prioritises rescue and long-term planning (fire, shelters) over immediate pleasures such as hunting, presenting him as a leader guided by reason and responsibility
- his growing frustration and difficulty holding assemblies as the novel progresses shows the practical limits of reasoned leadership when a group's priorities begin to shift
- by the end of the novel he is reduced to a hunted, isolated figure with almost no followers, showing the near-total collapse of the civilised model of leadership he represents
- his final grief on being rescued, understanding what has been lost, suggests Golding presents Ralph as gaining painful self-knowledge even as his practical authority disappears

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Question 4

Level 4 Compelling, critical response: sustained, sophisticated engagement with the statement across the whole novel; perceptive analysis of methods with consistently precise subject terminology; contextual understanding woven fully into the argument.	**16-20**
Level 3 Clear, well-structured response: sustained, clear engagement with the statement; explains effects of methods with accurate subject terminology; relevant context clearly shown.	**11-15**
Level 2 Some, generic response: attempts to engage with the statement with some relevant reference; comments on methods with limited subject terminology; some awareness of context.	**6-10**
Level 1 Simple, limited response: simple or narrative response with limited reference; simple or no comment on methods; little or no awareness of context.	**1-5**

Indicative content:

- agree: the imagined external beast is repeatedly shown to be either a misidentified object or, ultimately, Simon's insight that it may live within the boys themselves, directly supporting the statement
- agree: characters with no obvious external threat still turn to cruelty, seen in the mistreatment of Piggy and the mob violence against Simon, both carried out by ordinary boys rather than monstrous outsiders
- agree: Jack's escalating tribe shows that, once fear and ritual replace reasoned rules, capacity for violence can emerge from within a group with no external cause at all
- qualify: the novel does still use a genuinely frightening external event, the dead parachutist, to trigger the boys' fear, suggesting real external dangers play some part alongside internal human nature
- qualify: not all boys embrace savagery equally, since Ralph, Piggy and Simon continue to attempt reasoned or compassionate behaviour throughout, suggesting human nature is presented as varied rather than uniformly monstrous
- context: writing in the aftermath of a war in which ordinary people were shown capable of great cruelty, Golding uses the island as a deliberately controlled setting to test how thin the boundary between civilisation and savagery really is

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