

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOR TEACHING FROM 2015

CPD AUTUMN 2015

COMPONENT 1

EXEMPLAR RESPONSES (UNANNOTATED)

Component 1 Exemplar Responses

Read lines 1-7

A1 List five things you learn about Justo in these lines. (5)

Answer 1

- We learn Justo is a very strong character.
- He could throw an ox across a river.
- He is not that good looking.
- He owns his farm.
- He is portrayed as a proud man who likes to show off in front of a crowd. He was very confident in that respect.

Answer 2

- We learn that he is well-known and his reputation had spread from Guernica to Lumo.
- We learn that Justo was 'a defender of causes and a wit'
- He was perhaps 'too eager' to create his own mythology.
- We also learn that he was very strong and 'the one to watch' during feast days.
- A friend of Maria even claimed that he had the strength to carry 'an ox into town across his shoulder.' We learn that Justo was a humble man by making excuses that it was only a 'small ox' and he carried it downhill most of the way.

Read lines 8-34

A2 How does the writer show you Justo's physical strength and power in these lines? (5)

You must refer to the language used in the text to support your answer.

Answer 1

He is superior in the event that tests endurance and strength as he was 'unmatched'. We learn he is a show-off as he pretends that he is struggling with the weights but then lifts them easily.

Answer 2

The writer shows Justo's strength and power by saying he is 'the largest man' in the wood chopping contest and he 'tore into the pine log' with ease. He pretends to strain but the writer describes this as 'false drama' and contrasts him marching 'without a struggle' with the others who are falling in exhaustion.

Answer 3

The writer shows Justo's power and strength by telling us that he is 'the largest man' in the competition and the verbs 'flailing' and 'tore into' suggest the physical power of this man. He finishes 'well before' the other contestants which shows his strength and the writer says he is 'unmatched' in events which test 'strength and endurance'. The use of contrast emphasises Justo's power and he carries large weights 'easily' while the other contestants. He only pretends to strain and the writer says it is 'false drama' to tease the crowd as he walks past the marks where others had fallen in exhaustion 'without a struggle'. He can even nod to his admirers which shows how powerful and strong he must be.

Read lines 35-64

A3. How does the writer show the reader that Maria is interested in Justo in these lines? (10)

You should write about:

- what Maria does to attract his attention
- the writer's use of language to show her interest in Justo
- the effects on the reader

Answer 1

During these lines Maria thinks Justo is 'the most arrogant' due to him walking away from her. However, Maria feels the need to visit friends near the finishing line just so she could get closer to him.

Maria also feels the need to 'skirt the gathering' so that he would have to pass her again. I believe Maria feels attracted to him and wants to pursue these emotions.

Towards the end of this section, Maria thinks and feels that Justo is 'not the most handsome man', even though he was 'frighteningly powerful'.

When arguing with her sisters, Maria feels the need to argue her case when they are putting down Justo. She thinks he has 'character' and then doesn't feel the need to fight back in her sisters' never-ending conversation so on the journey home, she remained in 'silence'.

Answer 2

Maria is instantly attracted to Justo causing her to find an excuse to go 'near the finishing line' to meet him. She wants to impress him and does so by trying to capture his attention, 'unleashed her most feminine laugh'.

The author uses rhetorical questions to demonstrate how Maria is unsure of how Justo views her, 'to turn in her direction?' She is impressed by Justo and, despite thinking him to be 'arrogant', she acts in a flirtatious manner to try and make the attraction mutual.

Maria is eager to learn more about Justo to develop her attraction and the author uses short sentences to show how everything appears to be happening very quickly, 'they sat and talked'. To Maria, Justo is a figure of strength, causing her to be almost in awe of him, 'frighteningly powerful'.

As they talk Maria sees a different side to Justo rather than his arrogance as he was 'without confidence when they were alone'.

The author demonstrates that Maria has fallen for him by having her stand up for him when her family question his appearance. She insists he has 'character' and she stays silent as her sisters discuss his 'many inadequacies' on their way home.

Answer 3

Dave Boling shows that Maria feels attracted to Justo in these lines. He implies that Maria thinks that he is an attractive person and would like to get to know him. Boling uses a slightly humorous tone to show Maria's thoughts and feelings when he states that 'it so happened' that at the end of Justo's walk, Maria 'discovered the need' to visit her friends at the finish line. The writer continues this with sarcasm as he says 'who could have imagined' that just as Justo walked past Maria 'unleashed her most feminine laugh'. The strong verb 'unleashed' indicates that Maria feels the need to grab Justo's attention and wants to start a conversation. It seems that Maria feels drawn to Justo and she wants to attract him with her looks as she smiles her 'broadest smile.' The superlative shows that she is making every effort to impress him.

However, Boling shows a change in her feelings towards Justo when he ignores her flirting as he tells us that she thought he must be the 'most arrogant man in Guernica'. It is apparent that Maria thinks Justo is not friendly and is big-headed. This also suggests she feels offended and disappointed. However, Boling shows us that Maria is not ready to give up on Justo yet and still wants to get to know him. This is shown when she 'moves in' for the 'kiss on the cheek' which implies she feels romantically attracted to him. Furthermore, she tries to get his attention by standing where he must pass her again. Maria is desperate to attract his attention and becomes more forward when she asks him to dance. The writer uses her unconventional behaviour to show how keen she is to get to know Justo.

Maria agrees with her sisters that he is 'not the most handsome man' which suggests she feels he has an attractive personality or she cannot explain why she was attracted to him. She thinks he is 'frighteningly powerful' but she feels there is more to Justo's boasting as he was 'without confidence' when they were talking alone. Boling then implies that Maria is not influenced by her sisters as she argues that he has 'character'. When her mother mentions that he has his own farm, the writer tells us that Maria becomes 'thoughtful' and Boling tells us about her family to show why she would be interested in Justo as a husband.

Read lines 65-87

A4. What impressions do you get of Justo in these lines?

(10)

You must refer to the text to support your answer.

Answer 1

Justo arrives wearing his work clothes and greets Maria's family kindly which makes me feel he is a very kind man. I feel that Justo is being very generous when he offers to help the family. I think Maria's sisters are being hypocritical when they think he is appealing because they only really like him now he's done their repairs.

I think that Justo's method of proposal was fairly extravagant as he was disqualified from the race just to propose to Maria. I don't think the engagement was shocking, as it was fairly obvious to see it coming. I think that Justo would be a good husband to Maria and will keep the family happy.

Answer 2

Justo arrived at Maria's home 'empty-handed' while others presented gifts. To make amends, he asked 'What can I do to help?' Judging by this act of kindness, I get the impression that Justo is a humble man but could be trying to impress the Onati family. Justo helps out by doing the manual, heavy work with Maria. It was as if he was already 'part of the family' with this kind gesture, and even won over Maria's sisters as they now 'didn't have to repair the roof'. It seems here that the Onati family are very welcoming and that Justo is a very likeable character who wins over many with his positive attitude.

A month later at the next fair Justo asked Maria to marry him and without hesitation she agreed. Justo is disqualified from the competition but does not care; the thing of most importance to him now is Maria, not the competition as he rejoined 'his future bride'. This is more evidence to me that Justo is a humble, loving and kind man whose love for Maria is greater than the competition which he used to find so important.

Answer 3

At the beginning of these lines I get the impression that Justo contrasts to how Maria is usually treated by men. Justo 'wears his work clothes', showing his lack of care for his appearance. Perhaps this shows he only has one set of clothes. He gives Maria's mother a 'vigorous handshake' which shows he is not used to meeting girls' parents but he is polite, asking if he can help.

As the passage progresses, Justo shows that he is prepared to do the 'hardest' chores. He tells Maria to put her work clothes on. I get the impression he is a hard worker and also considerate.

The atmosphere is relaxed as they eat and the sisters are relieved of fixing the roof because of Justo. It is mentioned again that Justo is 'not handsome' but now the sisters have changed their mind and are of the opinion that 'looks are not everything'.

A month later at the fair Justo suddenly proposes to Maria, showing her a gold ring. Their romance is revealed when she accepts and they kiss. Justo is not concerned that he is disqualified but he apologises for not adding another lamb to their flock.

To begin with, I found it humorous that Justo appears in his work clothes and this is reinforced when he 'instantly wins over' Maria's mother by offering to help. However, I felt that Justo was polite and thoughtful to offer to help and it was better than presents. It was also humorous to see the sisters change their minds about 'ugly' Justo and it was good to see that he was accepted into the family.

I was surprised when he proposed as it was only after a month but he had taken the ring with him so he had obviously thought about it and knew what he wanted. I was upset that he was disqualified and did not win the lamb but when Justo did not seem to mind, I think it finished the passage on a happy note as Maria obviously meant more to him than winning the competition.

A5 Evaluate the way Maria is presented in this passage.

(10)

You should write about:

- your own thoughts and feelings about how Maria is presented in the passage as a whole
- how the writer has created these thoughts and feelings

You must refer to the text to support your answer.

Answer 1

I think Maria is a lively girl who knows what she wants. She goes to the festival and seems to be interested in Justo as she watches the men's competitions, which she usually avoided. She chases Justo and does not give up when he seems to ignore her. She tries her best to catch his attention.

She has a hard life on the farm as her father is disabled and she perhaps sees Justo as someone who can help her family. She says that Justo is not handsome but she likes him and does not hesitate when he asks her to marry him. I felt happy for her at the end of the passage.

Answer 2

I think Maria is an attractive character and I am pleased that she marries Justo, even if it is a rather sudden as they have only known each other for a short time.

The writer makes it clear that she only goes to the festival because she is intrigued by this strong and rather boastful man and she does all she can to attract his attention. She goes to the finishing line to be near him and 'unleashes her most feminine laugh' to make him notice her. She is angry when he just walks past her and thinks he is 'arrogant'. She is offended by him ignoring her but she does not give up. She flirts with him and kisses him when she presents him with his prize. I like the fact she has a mind of her own and the writer shows her using her female cunning to get what she wants

She talks to Justo and seems to want to get to know him. She knows he is not handsome but she defends him against her sisters and the writer shows her sticking up for Justo. On the way home she is thoughtful. She is the oldest of six sisters and she may see Justo as a potential husband who can help her family. The conversation with her sisters and her mother shows that she knows that Justo could be the answer to her family's problems.

When Justo visits the farm, the writer shows them working together and I think Maria appreciates that he is a kind and thoughtful man. She accepts his proposal of marriage without any hesitation and I feel happy for her as he is a good man and he obviously cares about her as he loses the competition to propose to her.

Answer 3

At the beginning of this passage I think Maria seems to be quite lively and extrovert as the writer tells us that she likes to dance and enjoy herself. However, I also think she is sensible and she believes Justo is 'foolhardy' to be using an axe in his bare feet. She is obviously interested in Justo as she watches him at the start of the farmers' walk. She uses all her female tricks to catch his attention such as 'unleashing' her most feminine laugh and smiling her 'broadest smile.' When he ignores her, she thinks he is 'the most arrogant man in Guernica' and I admire her spirit and persistence as she continues to pursue him. She shows initiative in arranging to present Justo with his prize and has the courage to be unconventional in asking him to dance. The writer shows her feelings for Justo through the events at the farmers' walk and it is amusing but also charming as she moves in on him. When they talk, she begins to understand that he is shy beneath the boastful exterior and she appreciates him and defends him when her sisters criticise his appearance and other 'inadequacies'. When I learn about her family and their circumstances, I understand her situation and why she might be so interested in a man who has his own farm. I feel sympathy for Maria but she seems to like Justo and she accepts his proposal of marriage. The writer uses the context of her life to show that is under some pressure to marry but she must be attractive as she has had other suitors so she has choices. She is 'stunned' by his sudden proposal but quite willing to marry him. She may be thinking of her family but I think she is also doing what she wants to do. The writer cleverly shows the complexity of her motives.

Overall, I admire Maria for her spirit and I am happy that she seems to have found a good man.