**English Language Paper 1 Practice Paper #3**

**1) Read again the first part of the source, from lines 1 to 7.**

**List four things we learn about Richard from this part of the source [4 marks]**

Possible answers:

1. He returned to the City at 3 o'clock on a May afternoon
2. He is disgusted with life
3. He had been in 'the Old Country' (England) for three months.
4. He was fed up with England.
5. The weather made him feel liverish and unwell.
6. The talk of ordinary Englishman made him feel sick.
7. He couldn't get enough exercise.
8. He found the amusements of London flat.
9. He feels he got into the wrong ditch and needs to climb out.

Other answers are acceptable as long as they are statements of fact and are about Richard. Remember that this question is marking you on information retrieval (AO1), identifying key information needed to answer the question.

2) **How does the writer use language here to describe Richard’s life?**

**You could include the writer's choice of:**

* **words and phrases**
* **Language features and techniques**
* **Sentence forms**

**[8 marks]**

Possible answers:

* Richard is presented a man who is bored with life and looking for excitement and adventure.
* When he thinks about how he built up plans to satisfy this need for adventure, "It made me bite my lips". He seems disappointed with England after having built it up to be "a sort of Arabian Nights", an allusion to 'One Thousand and One Nights', a collection of Middle Eastern folk tales that Victorians enjoyed and provided a sense of exoticness and otherness.
* The sibilance of 'seeing sights' suggests he is bored of going around looking at tourist attractions, and the repetition of 'and' in "restaurants and theatres and race-meetings" accentuates his frustration at the monotomy of doing the same things again and again.
* When Richard says "Plenty of people", the alliteration here seems to lump everyone in London into one idea, and the pronoun 'they' adds to this idea of everyone being dull and uninteresting to him, and all the same. The verb 'fling' regarding their questions to him accentuates how the narrator feels these people are not really interested in him.
* The way Richard describes being asked to meet 'schoolmasters from New Zealand' and 'editors from Vancouver' suggests he feels he is being lumped in with these kinds of people as he has spent time living in Rhodesia and feels almost typecast or stereotyped because of it, describing it as "the dismalest business of all", the hyperbole here really illustrating Hannay's sense of frustration.
* Finally, Hannay claims he is "yawning my head off all day", again the metaphor and hyperbole combining to convey his sense of boredom to the reader and he describes himself as "the best bored man in the United Kingdom". He makes it very clear to us how he feels and why!

**3) You now need to think about the whole of the source.**

**This text is from the middle of a novel.**

**How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader?**

**You could write about:**

* **what the writer focuses your attention on at the beginning of the source**
* **how and why the writer changes this focus as the source develops**
* **any other structural features that interest you**

**[8 marks]**

Possible answers:

* The first paragraph sets up Hannay's situation for us: He has returned to England, but is dissatisfied with life there. He built it up to be like 'Arabian Nights' but it is far less exotic, becoming an endless cycle of "restaurants and theatres and race-meetings", "seeing sights", speaking to "plenty of people" who weren't interested in him and being lumped together with "schoolmasters from New Zealand" and "editors from Vancouver", as if he has been stereotyped or typecast himself for being from Rhodesia.
* The middle section seems to leave hints about what may happen later on in the text: the mention of Karolides, the Greek Premier, seems out of place and incongrous with the rest of the text, which suggests Hannay has an interest in global politics ("they hated him pretty blackly in Berlin and Vienna"), which may foreshadow what is to come later in the novel.
* The narrator continues to build a sense of isolation and detachment ("I envied the people for having something to do") before the unusual man arrives and asks to speak to Richard.
* At this point there is a sudden shift in tone - rather than knowing how Richard feels about this man, we are given a brief description of him and the dialogue between the pair is blunt and guarded: "Say, will you do me a good turn?”
* “I’ll listen to you,” I said. “That’s all I’ll promise.” The man's actions suggest paranoia, nervousness and fear, building up a sense of tension for the reader.
* By the end of the extract we are now fully invested and desperate to know why this man is here, and we are left on a cliffhanger.

**4) Focus this part of your answer on the second part of the source, from line 32 to the end.**

**A reader said, 'There is a change in tone at this point and the narrator’s demands for adventure are being answered.'**

**To what extent do you agree?**

**In your response, you could:**

* **consider the reasons why the man has come to visit the narrator**
* **evaluate how the writer creates a sense of mystery in this part of the text**
* **support your response with references to the text**

**[20 marks]**

Possible answers:

* Initially it seems the narrator is still jaded with life in England and refers to the night club he has visited as a "Silly show", "all capering women and monkey-faced men", the sibilance and adjectives here used to mock the evening.
* This sense of detachment and dissatisfaction continues when the narrator describes the crowd as they "surged past me on the pavements, busy and chattering", to the point where he is 'envious' of their lives and their sense of activity. He suggests a beggar who yawns is a "a fellow-suffer", although this perhaps doesn't necessarily win over the reader to Richard's cause!
* Hannah tells us that, "If nothing happened, I would take the next boat for the Cape." At is at this point that he then meets this strange man, as if his ultimatum for action and excitement has finally been answered.
* We are told that "each flat was quite shut off from the others", again reinforcing that sense of isolation and detachment, but Richard then says, "I noticed a man at my elbow. I had not seen him approach, and the sudden appearance made me start." As he hadn't seen him approach it adds to a sense of stealth and mystery, that this man can seemingly come out of nowhere and surprise Richard. When the man tells Hannay, ""I've had you in mind all this week when things got troublesome," this implies that the man has perhaps been monitoring or keeping watch over Hannay all week, which adds to a sense of mystery. We don't know why the man is targeting Hannay, but we do know he is expecting things to become 'troublesome', which implies trouble is coming Hannay's way, too.
* Hannay's description of the man is quite vague: "He was a slim man, with a short brown beard, and small, gimlety blue eyes." A gimlet is a type of tool used to pierce bottles, so the man's stare is fierce and penetrating. It again adds to that sense of mystery and unusualness. However, Hannay doesn't really go into detail about what the man looks like, that is probably not important and helps the reader to feel Hannay's tension and desire to know what is going on.
* However, when we are told, "He was steadying his voice with an effort, and his hand was pawing my arm", this implies the man is troubled, fearful and anxious. He seems desperate to want to get inside and safely away from the outside. Again, we don't know, but the man's mannerisms helps us to feel tense and nervous, too, just like Hannay.
* Indeed, when the man enters the flat he doesn't calmly sit down but instead: "No sooner was he over the threshold than he made a dash for the back room", "he bolted back". These are the actions of someone who feels like they are being watched or as if someone could attack them at any moment, essentially someone who is paranoid. As readers we're meant to pick up on this without being told explicitly, but we don't know WHY the man feels this way. The tone of the writing contrasts so much to the first half of the extract where sibilance, alliteration, metaphors and repetition were used to engineer a tone of dissatisfaction and dullness.
* Hannay is guarded around the man and says he will listen to him, but "That's all I promise." The text ends on a cliffhanger, with Hannay saying: "I was getting worried by the antics of this nervous little chap." We are still none-the-wiser why he is here, wants to speak to Richard and why he appears so nervous, but the tension has been built up and we're now keen to know what will happen next. It does feel as if the narrator's demands for adventure are actually being answered.