**English Language Paper 1 Practice Paper #2**

1) **Read again the first part of the source, from lines 1 to 5.**

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

Possible answers:

1. A large rose-tread is near the entrance
2. The roses on the tree are white
3. Three gardeners are by the roses
4. The gardeners are painting the roses red
5. One gardener tells another gardener not to splash paint on them
6. The gardeners are all named after numbers
7. Five says Seven jogged his elbow

Other answers are acceptable as long as they are statements of fact and are about the garden and the gardeners. 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 the Queen?**

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

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

**[8 marks]**

Possible answers:

* The Queen is shown to be impulsive and petty: "if the Queen was to find it out, we should all have our heads cut off, you know". We are told by Two that the Queen will have the cards executed if she finds out they planted white roses instead of red ones. Therefore we have the ludicrous situation of the cards trying to paint all the roses red so the Queen doesn't find out, as they are terrified of the consequences!
* The dash after 'to--' shows the reader that Two has been suddenly interrupted by Five, with the adverb 'anxiously' emphasising his sense of fear regarding the arrival of the Queen. He repeats 'The Queen!' to show his panic and the cards 'instantly' throw themselves to the floor, with the alliteration of 'flat upon their faces' used to accentuate the suddenness of their actions.
* 'Many footsteps' implies there are multiple people walking with the Queen as she approaches, implying power and control.
* The repetition of 'ten' when describing the procession of cards as they march towards Alice suggests a military organisation and precision, and the capitalisation of 'THE KING AND QUEEN OF HEARTS' emphasises their significance and importance in relation to the rest of the procession. It builds up a sense of anticipation about what the Queen will be like, and the sentence structures in this paragraph with the use of connectives 'First', 'Next', 'After these', 'Next', 'Then' and 'last of all' to order them suggests a fantastic organisation which seems to fly in the face of the impulsiveness and pettiness of the Queen described by the cards earlier on in the extract. We now as readers wish to meet her to find out what kind of a character she is: powerful and organised or chaotic and callous?

**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 focus at the beginning of the extract is on the garden and the argument between the cards about who is responsible for splashing paint and whether they should be beheaded by the Queen or not. This introduces the reader to the characters but also hints at what the Queen is like - she will impulsively behead her subjects for very petty reasons ("for bringing the cook tulip-roots instead of onions").
* Alice is an observer to all this, like us, and when the cards notice her she is able to ask them exactly WHY they are painting roses - a ludicrious occupation. Their response that the Queen will behead them for planting the wrong roses further accentuates a sense of tyranny and absurdity around the Queen.
* Next, we as readers are given a description of the Queen's procession which is very well organised and structured, which goes in contrast to the previous allusions about the Queen regarding her impulsiveness.
* After this the Queen addresses Alice and we finally get to hear from the Queen herself. Her sentences are short and aggressive ("Who is this?", "Idiot!") and she keeps repeating "Off with her head!" or "Off with their heads!" highlighting her immature and reductive attitude towards being a monarch. She simply gets very angry at everyone and interrupts other characters to ask for them to be executed.
* Finally, the Queen suddenly changes topic and asks Alice if she plays croquet. It gives the impression of someone who is 'scatterbrained' and skittish, moving from one idea to the next without really reflecting on it.
* Ultimately, the structure of the extract builds up a sense of anticipation regarding the Queen. Is she impulsive or is she a powerful monarch? When we finally get to meet her in the second half of the text we learn she is definitely more the former than the latter.

**4) Focus this part of your answer on the second part of the source, from line 50 to the end.**

**A reader said, 'The Queen is portrayed as a bumbling, power-obsessed fool.'**

**To what extent do you agree?**

**In your response, you could:**

* **consider the reasons why Alice stands up to the Queen**
* **evaluate how the writer creates a sense of mockery regarding the Queen**
* **support your response with references to the text**

**[20 marks]**

* The Queen is certainly not presented in a positive light by Carroll in the second half of the the text. We're told she reacts to Alice by "glaring at her for a moment like a wild beast, screamed ‘Off with her head! Off—’" The verb 'glaring' and the simile of 'like a wild beast' suggesting she reacts like an animal or unthinking creature, full of anger and unable to contain it. Additionally the metaphor of 'turned crimson with fury' further emphasises this idea.
* However, Alice stands up to the Queen and her curt sentence of "Nonsense!" silences her, she simply does not know how to respond to someone challenging her authority. At this point the Queen's focus then shifts away from Alice and onto the cards, the Queen demanding that they be turned over. It is as if she thrives on power and control but when someone questions that control (which no one seems to have done until Alice came along!) she has no idea how to respond to it.
* Alice is surprised at her courage at being able to stand up to the Queen, but this implies she is not really fearful of such a bumbling and power-hungry character, unlike the other characters.
* Carroll adds to a sense of the Queen being bumbling when she interrupts Two when he says 'we were trying--' and is unable to add any more detail, showing the Queen is not interested in knowing what happened but instead wanting to showcase her power by having them executed without knowing why.
* That Alice is able to stop the cards being executed by placing the cards in a flower-pot and the Queen believing the words of her soldiers 'That's right!' only accentuates her stupidity and foolishness.
* The Queen constantly shouts, we are told she ‘roared’, ‘shouted’, ‘screamed’, ‘in a shrill, loud voice’, and so on. This is in contrast to the other characters like the King and the soldiers who act ‘timidly’ around the Queen. In fact, it is only Alice that stands up to her.
* Finally, the Queen's non-sequitur or sudden change in topic to asking about croquet shows how detached she is from reality and is only interested in satisfying her impulsive desires.
* Carroll may have been parodying his own Queen (Queen Victoria) through this character, or he may have been poking fun at monarchs and political leaders in general, but he definitely provides a one-sided, one-dimensional portrayal of the Queen as a character.