**English Language Paper 1 Practice Paper #5**

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

**List four things about Antonia from this part of the source [4 marks]**

Possible answers:

1. Jim told Antonia he would come back
2. Antonia has got married
3. Antonia is poor
4. Antonia has a large family
5. Antonia sent Jim a letter telling him the names and ages of her many children.

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

2) **Look in detail at this extract, from lines 29 to 39 of the source.**

**How does the writer use language here to describe the two boys and the narrator.**

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

**• words and phrases**

**• Language features and techniques**

**• Sentence forms**

**[8 marks]**

Possible answers:

* The narrator describes the boys standing over a 'dead dog' quite matter-of-factly, giving a sense of being detached from the situation and only describing it factually, rather than emotionally. However, it's clear the boys have been emotionally impacted by the death of the animal, one is "on his knees", "his hands folded" and his head "drooping forward in deep dejection". The verb' drooping' and the alliteration of 'drooping, 'deep' and 'dejection' really accentuates how sad and upset this little boy is about losing the dog. In contrast, the older boy appears to be reassuring and has "a hand on his shoulder, and was comforting him in a language I had not heard for a long while." This allusion to another language might refer to the narrator's memories and his experiences of the past.
* When the two boys approach the narrator, we are told the only one, "too, looked grave", the adjective grave helping to reinforce this idea of tragedy and sadness. The final short sentence of the extract, "This was evidently a sad afternoon for them," accentuates how the boys feel about the incident, but also how the narrator is so detached from it. He is an outsider looking in, but the experience does seem to trigger memories of his own past. The experience of losing a pet or an animal is probably something not too unusual for him but for these boys it is something new and deeply tragic.

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

**This text is from the ending 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 beginning of the extract gives us some insight into how Antonia's life has changed, and the narrator's reasons for putting off visiting her despite having opportunities to visit her. As we are told, "Some memories are realities, and are better than anything that can ever happen to one again."
* After this confession, the narrator suddenly shifts to focusing on his old friends Lena Lingard and Tiny Soderball and how their lives have changed. This meeting also provides a different perspective on Antonia, Lena is able to explain to Jim that Antonia has a good life: "I shouldn’t care for a family of that size myself, but somehow it’s just right for Tony. She’d love to show them to you."
* Next, we find the narrator travelling on his way to see Antonia. He provides us with detailed descriptions of his encounters with Antonia's children, each of them seems excited to see the narrator. It might be simply because he is new and is a new visitor to their home, or it could be that they somehow recognise him, but these little stories help to build up a sense of anticipation before the narrator finally sees Antonia again.
* The focus shifts to the animals around the house and the girls in the kitchen, before we finally get a detailed description of Antonia and learn that although she has changed physically, she is still the same Antonia to Jim, with Jim describing it as a "miracle".
* At the end of the extract, Antonia suddenly realises who her visitor is having given him a non-committal response previously of, ‘My husband’s not at home, sir. Can I do anything?’
* It is the very last line that is so powerful, where she realises it is her old friend Jim that has come to visit. She catches her breath "and put out two hard-worked hands." She is tired and she is "battered", but she is not diminished, and our sense of anticipation is finally over.

**4) Focus this part of your answer on the second part of the source, from line 40 to the end.**

**A reader said, 'The narrator is reluctant to visit Antonia in case his memories of her are ruined, but he soon realises he had no need to worry.'**

**To what extent do you agree?**

**In your response, you could:**

* **consider the reasons why the narrator was nervous about seeing Antonia again**
* **evaluate how the writer creates a sense of tension towards the end of the extract**
* **support your response with references to the text**

**[20 marks]**

Possible answers:

* In the second half of the extract, the narrator focuses on describing Antonia's children that he encounters as he drives towards Antonia's home: "He was a handsome one, this chap, fair-skinned and freckled, with red cheeks and a ruddy pelt as thick as a lamb’s wool, growing down on his neck in little tufts." It gives a sense of the alien experience that the narrator is having, seeing echoes of Antonia in the children whilst he anticipates seeing her again after so long.
* Previously, in the extract the narrator had told us, “I did not want to find her aged and broken; I really dreaded it. In the course of twenty crowded years one parts with many illusions. I did not wish to lose the early ones. Some memories are realities, and are better than anything that can ever happen to one again.” He fears altering his memories by seeing Antonia again, and this is why he has put off visiting her for so long. Therefore the writer needs to build up a sense of tension and anticipation towards the end of the extract as Jim finally meets Antonia. Why she be the same or will she be much changed? Will his memories of her be crushed by the realities of her now?
* All the children seem excited that their mother has a visitor as well. "As he glanced at me, his face dimpled with a seizure of irrelevant merriment". One of the girls, "dropped her towel, ran across the floor with noiseless bare feet, and disappeared." We don't know whether the children recognise the narrator, possibly from photos they have seen, know who he is, or are just excited that someone new is coming to see them, but it helps to build a sense of anticipation about the narrator's meeting with Antonia.
* All around the narrator the scenery seems to come to life: "Ducks and geese ran quacking across my path. White cats were sunning themselves among yellow pumpkins on the porch steps." This place, like the children he has spoken to, is full of activity and life. The use of personification here of ‘ran’ and ‘sunning themselves’ creates an atmosphere of energy and life. Again, it helps to build up a sense of anticipation for both the narrator and the reader.
* Finally, we are told: "the miracle happened." The narrator's description of Antonia captures both the physical changes that have happened to her ("a stalwart brown woman, flat-chested, her curly brown hair a little grizzled" but also the essence of her character that is still very much the same: "simply Antonia's eyes." "It was a shock, of course," Jim tells us, to see Antonia looking so different, and yet "As I confronted her, the changes grew less apparent to me, her identity stronger." The narrator uses a metaphor to explain how her personality is "battered but not diminished" and her voice seems the same as before, "I remembered so well".