

English Language Paper 1 – Sources and questions to go with the videos

Source A

This extract is taken from the middle of a novel by Mary Shelley. In this section, Frankenstein, a scientist, finally finds success in creating life from body parts of the dead.

1 It was on a dreary night of November that I beheld the accomplishment of my toils. With an
anxiety that almost amounted to agony, collected the instruments of life around me, that I
might infuse a spark of being into the lifeless thing that lay at my feet. It was already one in the
morning; the rain pattered dismally against the panes, and my candle was nearly burnt out,
5 when, by the glimmer of the half-extinguished light, I saw the dull yellow eye of the creature
open; it breathed hard, and a convulsive motion agitated its limbs.

How can I describe my emotions at this catastrophe, or how delineate the wretch whom with
such infinite pains and care I had endeavoured to form? His limbs were in proportion, and I had
selected his features as beautiful. Beautiful! -- Great God! His yellow skin scarcely covered the
10 work of muscles and arteries beneath; his hair was of a lustrous black, and flowing; his teeth of
a pearly whiteness; but these luxuriances only formed a more horrid contrast with his watery
eyes, that seemed almost of the same colour as the dun white sockets in which they were set,
his shrivelled complexion and straight black lips.

The different accidents of life are not so changeable as the feelings of human nature. I had
15 worked hard for nearly two years, for the sole purpose of infusing life into an inanimate body.
For this I had deprived myself of rest and health. I had desired it with an ardour that far
exceeded moderation; but now that I had finished, the beauty of the dream vanished, and
breathless horror and disgust filled my heart. Unable to endure the aspect of the being I had
created, I rushed out of the room, continued a long time traversing my bed chamber, unable to
20 compose my mind to sleep. At length lassitude succeeded to the tumult I had before endured;
and I threw myself on the bed in my clothes, endeavouring to seek a few moments of
forgetfulness. But it was in vain; I slept, indeed, but I was disturbed by the wildest dreams. I
thought I saw Elizabeth, in the bloom of health, walking in the streets of Ingolstadt. Delighted
and surprised, I embraced her; but as I imprinted the first kiss on her lips, they became livid
25 with the hue of death; her features appeared to change, and I thought that I held the corpse of
my dead mother in my arms; a shroud enveloped her form, and I saw the grave-worms crawling
in the folds of the flannel. I started from my sleep with horror; a cold dew covered my
forehead, my teeth chattered, and every limb became convulsed: when, by the dim and yellow
light of the moon, as it forced its way through the window shutters, I beheld the wretch -- the
30 miserable monster whom I had created. He held up the curtain of the bed and his eyes, if eyes
they may be called, were fixed on me. His jaws opened, and he muttered some inarticulate
sounds, while a grin wrinkled his cheeks. He might have spoken, but I did not hear; one hand
was stretched out, seemingly to detain me, but I escaped, and rushed down stairs. I took refuge
in the courtyard belonging to the house which I inhabited; where I remained during the rest of
35 the night, walking up and down in the greatest agitation, listening attentively, catching and
fearing each sound as if it were to announce the approach of the demoniacal corpse to which I
had so miserably given life.

**Question
1**

Read lines 7-13. List four things from this part of the text about Frankenstein's creature.
[4 marks]

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.

Question 2

Take a detailed look at lines 1-6 of the source:

It was on a dreary night of November that I beheld the accomplishment of my toils. With an anxiety that almost amounted to agony, I collected the instruments of life around me, that I might infuse a spark of being into the lifeless thing that lay at my feet. It was already one in the morning; the rain pattered dismally against the panes, and my candle was nearly burnt out, when, by the glimmer of the half-extinguished light, I saw the dull yellow eye of the creature open; it breathed hard, and a convulsive motion agitated its limbs.

How does the writer use language to describe the weather?

You could write about:

- Individual words and phrases
- Language devices
- Sentence structures

[8 marks]

Question 3

Answer this question based on the whole source. This extract is taken from the middle of a novel.

How has the writer used structure to interest the reader?

You may write about:

- What the writer focuses on at the start
- How and why this focus changes through the extract
- Other structural features

[8 marks]

Question 4

You should base your answer on lines 14 to 37.

A student said: "The writer makes it feel as if you are inside the room with Dr Frankenstein, experiencing everything he is experiencing".

To what extent do you agree?

In your response, you could:

- Write about your impressions of Dr Frankenstein
 - Analyse how the writer has created these impressions
 - Back up your answers with quotations from the text
- [20 marks]

Question 5



(24 marks for content and organisation
16 marks for technical accuracy)
[40 marks]

Write a description based on the image above.

OR

Write the opening part of a story based on a tropical island.