

English Entry Assessment

Name Date Score

Time: about 70 minutes. Answer ALL questions. This paper is pitched at GCSE Language/Literature standard. Use embedded quotations and analyse the writer's methods, not just content. Write in full paragraphs for the longer questions. You have 70 minutes. Total: 48 marks. Show your working where you can. Marks for each question are shown in brackets, like [2]. Total marks: **48**.

READ THIS, THEN ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

I had expected the city to roar, but it whispered. From the seventeenth floor the traffic was only a glittering river, soundless behind the glass, and the people below moved like filings drawn across a vast magnet I could not see. My uncle stood at the window with his hands clasped behind him, the way men stand when they own a thing, and told me that this was the future and I should be grateful to inherit it. I did not tell him that the higher we climbed in that smooth, humming lift, the smaller I had felt; that grandeur, close up, is mostly a way of making other people disappear. Below us a single light went out in a window, then another, and I wondered who was being switched off, and whether anyone up here would ever notice.

- 1 'I had expected the city to roar, but it whispered.' Explain how this opening sentence sets up a contrast, and what it suggests about the narrator's expectations. [3]

LANGUAGE / OPENING

- 2 Analyse the simile 'the people below moved like filings drawn across a vast magnet I could not see.' What does it suggest about how the narrator views the people and the forces acting on them? [4]

LANGUAGE ANALYSIS

- 3 'grandeur, close up, is mostly a way of making other people disappear.' Explain what the narrator means, and how this line conveys the writer's likely message about wealth and power. [4]

WRITER'S INTENT / THEME

- 4 The uncle 'stood at the window with his hands clasped behind him, the way men stand when they own a thing.' Analyse how the writer uses this body language to characterise the uncle. [3]

CHARACTERISATION

- 5 The final image asks 'who was being switched off, and whether anyone up here would ever notice.' Explain the double meaning of 'switched off' and its effect. [3]

LANGUAGE / INFERENCE

- 6 Identify the tense shift between 'I had expected' and 'it whispered', and explain why the writer uses the past perfect at the start. [2]

GRAMMAR / TENSE

- 7 The third sentence is a complex sentence containing more than one subordinate clause. Identify the main clause and ONE subordinate clause within it. [2]

GRAMMAR / CLAUSES

- 8 Choose the most precise word to replace 'grandeur' without losing meaning: (a) size (b) magnificence (c) richness (d) pride. Then give one word that is its near-OPPOSITE in this context. [2]

VOCABULARY

- 9 Explain the difference in meaning and effect between 'making other people disappear' and a more neutral phrase such as 'ignoring other people'. [3]

VOCABULARY / EFFECT

- 10 The narrator says the lift was 'smooth, humming' yet the higher they climbed the 'smaller' they felt. Explain the irony in this contrast. [3]

TECHNIQUE / IRONY

- 11 Convert this sentence to reported (indirect) speech: He said, 'This is the future and you should be grateful to inherit it.' [2]

GRAMMAR / SPEECH

- 12 Identify the narrative VIEWPOINT and explain ONE advantage the writer gains from telling the passage this way. [2]

VIEWPOINT / CRAFT

- 13 WRITING TECHNIQUE: Write TWO sentences describing a powerful person seen from the perspective of someone who distrusts them. Use (i) a simile that diminishes or reduces the subject, and (ii) a deliberate short sentence for impact. Label both. [4]

WRITING TECHNIQUE

- 14 STRETCH: Compare how the narrator and the uncle each respond to the view of the city. Use the text to show how the writer positions the reader to side with the narrator. [4]

COMPARISON / CRITICAL READING

- 15 STRETCH: 'The whole passage is a quiet argument against inherited privilege.' How far do you agree? Argue your case using at least TWO precise references and one comment on method. [4]

CRITICAL EVALUATION / STRETCH

- 16 STRETCH: The narrator never speaks aloud to the uncle ('I did not tell him...'). What is the effect of keeping the narrator's strongest feelings unspoken, and how does this affect our reading of the relationship? [3]

CRAFT / INFERENCE / STRETCH

End of assessment. Hand your paper back when you are finished. Well done!