Read the passage and then answer **part (a)** and **part (b)**

Both men glanced up, for the rectangle of sunshine in the doorway was cut off*.* A

girl was standing there looking in. She had full, rouged lips and wide-spaced eyes,

heavily made up. Her fi ngernails were red. Her hair hung in little rolled clusters, like

sausages. She wore a cotton house dress and red mules, on the insteps of which

were little bouquets of red ostrich feathers. ‘I’m lookin’ for Curley,’ she said. Her voice

had a nasal, brittle quality.

George looked away from her and then back. ‘He was in here a minute ago, but he

went.’

‘Oh!’ She put her hands behind her back and leaned against the door frame so that

her body was thrown forward. ‘You’re the new fellas that just come, ain’t ya?’

‘Yeah.’

Lennie’s eyes moved down over her body, and though she did not seem to be

looking at Lennie she bridled a little. She looked at her fi ngernails. ‘Sometimes

Curley’s in here,’ she explained.

George said brusquely, ‘Well he ain’t now.’

‘If he ain’t, I guess I better look some place else,’ she said playfully.

Lennie watched her, fascinated. George said, ‘If I see him, I’ll pass the word you

was looking for him.’

She smiled archly and twitched her body. ‘Nobody can’t blame a person for lookin’,’

she said. There were footsteps behind her, going by. She turned her head. ‘Hi, Slim,’

she said.

Slim’s voice came through the door, ‘Hi, good-lookin’.’

‘I’m tryin’ to find Curley, Slim.’

‘Well, you ain’t tryin’ very hard. I seen him goin’ in your house.’

She was suddenly apprehensive. ‘Bye, boys,’ she called into the bunk house, and

she hurried away.

George looked around at Lennie. ‘Jesus, what a tramp,’ he said. ‘So that’s what

Curley picks for a wife.’

**Part (a)**

In this passage, what methods does Steinbeck use to present Curley’s wife and the

attitudes of others to her? Refer closely to the passage in your answer.

**and** then **Part (b)**

How does Steinbeck present attitudes to women in the society in which the novel is set?

*(30 marks)*

SPaG: *(4 marks)*

**You could include:**

**AO1 – ideas and quotes**

\* Curley’s wife immediately attracts attention – ‘Both men glanced up’

\* Attitude of George – dismissive

\* Lennie’s fascination

\* Change in her attitude from provocative to ‘apprehensive’ when told Curley was going to the house – what this shows

\* Curley’s wife / Slim – their relationship

**AO2 – analysis**

\* Foreshadowing – ‘the rectangle of sunshine in the doorway was cut off’

\* Language used to present her appearance and its significance

\* Other language choices – ‘nasal, brittle quality’, ‘brusquely’, ‘archly’, ‘playfully’

\* Reference back to the girl in the red dress in Weed

\* Curley’s wife not named

**AO4 - context**

\* Different women – prostitutes, married women, nurturers (Aunt Clara)

\* Where Curley’s wife ‘belongs’ – told to get back to the house

\* Attitudes to the cathouse and the women there

\* Status / hierarchy of ranch – Curley’s wife’s place

\* Characters used to present attitudes