Read the following passage and then answer **Part (a)** and **Part (b)**.

Crooks possessed several pairs of shoes, a pair of rubber boots, a big alarm clock

and a single-barreled shotgun. And he had books, too; a tattered dictionary and a

mauled copy of the California civil code for 1905. There were battered magazines

and a few dirty books on a special shelf over his bunk. A pair of large gold-rimmed

spectacles hung from a nail on the wall above his bed.

This room was swept and fairly neat, for Crooks was a proud, aloof man. He kept

his distance and demanded that other people kept theirs. His body was bent over to

the left by his crooked spine, and his eyes lay deep in his head, and because of their

depth seemed to glitter with intensity. His lean face was lined with deep black

wrinkles, and he had thin, pain-tightened lips which were lighter than his face.

It was Saturday night. Through the open door that led into the barn came the sound

of moving horses, of feet stirring, of teeth champing on hay, of the rattle of halter

chains. In the stable buck’s room a small electric globe threw a meager yellow light.

Crooks sat on his bunk. His shirt was out of his jeans in back. In one hand he held

a bottle of liniment, and with the other he rubbed his spine. Now and then he poured

a few drops of the liniment into his pink-palmed hand and reached up under his shirt

to rub again. He fl exed his muscles against his back and shivered.

Noiselessly Lennie appeared in the open doorway and stood there looking in, his big

shoulders nearly fi lling the opening. For a moment Crooks did not see him, but on

raising his eyes he stiffened and a scowl came on his face. His hand came out from

under his shirt.

Lennie smiled helplessly in an attempt to make friends.

Crooks said sharply, ‘You got no right to come in my room. This here’s my room.

Nobody got any right in here but me.’

**Part (a)**

In this passage, how does Steinbeck present Crooks? Refer closely to the passage in

your answer.

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

In the rest of the novel how does Steinbeck use Crooks to present attitudes to black

people at the time the novel is set? *(30 marks)*

SPaG: *(4 marks)*

**You could include:**

**AO1 – ideas and quotes**

Aware of his rights / sense of him being educated

 Keeps his distance from others – attitude to the appearance of Lennie

 Crooks as a man who has suffered and is suffering

 Sense of Crooks‟ loneliness and isolation

**AO2 – analysis**

 The significance of the items in Crooks room – what they represent about his life

 Language used to describe Crooks and his actions – his eyes „seemed to glitter with intensity‟, „pain-tightened lips‟

 Foreshadowing – „the sound of moving horses‟, „the rattle of halter chains‟

 Language used to describe his reaction to Lennie – „stiffened‟, „scowled‟, „sharply‟

 Language used to refer to Crooks elsewhere in the novel

**AO4 - context**

 Crooks is always aware of his status in the hierarchy of the ranch and that he has no realistic access to the „dream‟

 Attitude of Curley‟s wife to Crooks – only one beneath her in the hierarchy of the ranch

 The boss‟ attitude to Crooks

 Such attitudes to black people were the norm – no concept of „racism‟ as we know it

 Crooks is isolated literally from the other ranch workers as he is isolated from society