**Section B: Exploring cultures**

Answer **one** question from this section on the text you have studied.

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section.

**John Steinbeck: *Of Mice and Men***

**2 1** Read the passage and then answer **part (a)** and **part (b)**.

The old man was reassured. He had drawn a derogatory statement from George.

He felt safe now, and he spoke more confidently. ‘Wait’ll you see Curley’s wife.’

George cut the cards again and put out a solitaire lay, slowly and deliberately.

‘Purty?’ he asked casually.

‘Yeah. Purty ... but ––’

George studied his cards. ‘But what?’

‘Well – she got the eye.’

‘Yeah? Married two weeks and got the eye? Maybe that’s why Curley’s pants is

full of ants.’

‘I seen her give Slim the eye. Slim’s a jerkline skinner. Hell of a nice fella. Slim

don’t need to wear no high-heeled boots on a grain team. I seen her give Slim the

eye. Curley never seen it. An’ I seen her give Carlson the eye.’

George pretended a lack of interest. ‘Looks like we was gonna have fun.’

The swamper stood up from his box. ‘Know what I think?’ George did not answer.

‘Well, I think Curley’s married ... a tart.’

‘He ain’t the first,’ said George. ‘There’s plenty done that.’

The old man moved toward the door, and his ancient dog lifted his head and peered

about, and then got painfully to his feet to follow. ‘I gotta be settin’ out the wash

basins for the guys. The teams’ll be in before long. You guys gonna buck barley?’

‘Yeah.’

‘You won’t tell Curley nothing I said?’

‘Hell no.’

‘Well, you look her over, mister. You see if she ain’t a tart.’ He stepped out the

door into the brilliant sunshine.

**(a)** How does the writer use details in this passage to present Candy?

**(b)** How do other characters treat Candy in the novel and what does this show you

about the society in which he lives?

In **Part (b)** write about:

 what the other characters say and do to Candy

 what society was like at this time. *(30 marks)*

**You could include:**

* what he thinks of Curley‟s wife – ‘tart’
* lacks confidence and also is lonely – he appears to want to please as if that will secure him a friend
* likes to gossip and thinks he understands all the characters
* what the other characters say and do
* judgmental language – either positive or negative.
* suggestive language – trying to entice George into the gossip
* childlike – as if that is what he has been lowered to!
* shows another form of discrimination in society at the time
* segregation of society – theme of loneliness and isolation
* roles and work in society

**b**

**a**