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

They had walked in single file down the path, and even in the open one stayed behind the

other. Both were dressed in denim trousers and in denim coats with brass buttons. Both

wore black, shapeless hats and both carried tight blanket rolls slung over their shoulders. The

first man was small and quick, dark of face, with restless eyes and sharp, strong features.

Every part of him was defined: small, strong hands, slender arms, a thin and bony nose.

Behind him walked his opposite, a huge man, shapeless of face, with large, pale eyes, with

wide, sloping shoulders; and he walked heavily, dragging his feet a little, the way a bear drags

his paws. His arms did not swing at his sides, but hung loosely.

The first man stopped short in the clearing, and the follower nearly ran over him. He took off

his hat and wiped the sweat-band with his forefinger and snapped the moisture off. His huge

companion dropped his blankets and flung himself down and drank from the surface of the

green pool; drank with long gulps, snorting into the water like a horse. The small man stepped

nervously beside him.

‘Lennie!’ he said sharply. ‘Lennie, for God’ sakes don’t drink so much.’ Lennie continued to

snort into the pool. The small man leaned over and shook him by the shoulder. ‘Lennie. You

gonna be sick like you was last night.’

Lennie dipped his whole head under, hat and all, and then he sat up on the bank and his hat

dripped down on his blue coat and ran down his back. ‘Tha’s good,’ he said. ‘You drink

some, George. You take a good big drink.’ He smiled happily.

George unslung his bindle and dropped it gently on the bank. ‘I ain’t sure it’s good water,’

he said. ‘Looks kinda scummy.’

Lennie dabbled his big paw in the water and wiggled his fingers so the water arose in little

splashes; rings widened across the pool to the other side and came back again. Lennie

watched them go. ‘Look, George. Look what I done.’

**Part (a)**

(a) In this passage, how does Steinbeck introduce the relationship between George and Lennie?

Refer closely to details from the passage in your response.

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

(b) In the rest of the novel, how does Steinbeck present ideas about relationships on a ranch

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

SPaG: *(4 marks)*

**You could include:**

**AO1 – ideas and quotes**

\* physical appearance – establishing what they look like – similarities / differences

• George’s attitude to Lennie – protective / father-like ‘You gonna be sick like you was last night’

• Lennie’s behaviour is childlike – ‘wiggled his fingers so the water arose in little splashes’

• one a leader / one a ‘follower’.

**AO2 – analysis**

\* repetition of ‘both’ – they dress the same - and yet one leads and the other is a‘follower’

• language used to describe each of them – use of contrast ‘defined’ ‘shapeless’ –ironically, the smaller man is the leader

• animal imagery to describe Lennie – suggests a master / animal relationship – also suggests Lennie’s instinctive behaviour whereas George is more cautious

• George speaks ‘sharply’ to Lennie – like a father.

**AO4 - context**

\* Lennie / George are an exception in the world of the ranchmen who don’t make friends or establish relationships due to their itinerant lifestyle

• Curley’s marriage – not based on love but sex – reveals attitude to women / marriage – ‘glove fulla vaseline’ – referred to as ‘Curley’s wife’

• no one has a relationship with Crooks as he is black

• Candy loves his old dog but it’s a brutal life and it is shot – symbolic of Lennie being shot by George and revealing that relationships don’t last

• a brief relationship is formed between Lennie, George, Candy and Crooks – but it soon dissolves - like the American Dream.