

47101H

S7

Full marks  
(section B only)

Write the two digit question number *inside* the boxes next to the first line of your answer

Answer

Leave blank

2 1

a) In the passage the reader reads that the "walls were white washed" and "the floor unpainted" indicating the lack of identity the inhabitants have, as they are all uniform and the same. The surroundings are a representation of the inhabitants personalities and in this case, it shows how their bunk house was not a territory that they could personalise, but rather it serves just one function - to house people. One could infer that there is a lack of individual spirit within the inhabitants as the blank walls and floor seem to represent the clinical nature of a hospital where you are seen as patients and not individuals with individual problems. Hence, the bunkhouse is a symbol of their souls being cleansed out and not as a place to freely express them. ✓

6.3  
description of  
bunkhouse as  
symbolic of  
ranch workers'  
lives  
(6.8)

6.2  
(6.5)

The "soap" and the "talcum powder" also emphasises that the inhabitants lived their lives to stay hygienic, but with a lack of personal possessions showing that the aim in life at the time of the Great Depression was to be alive but not to be human. Steinbeck wants to show to the reader that the reality for the ranch workers was universal and here, the reader is treated to an omniscient perception of their lives. I feel this is why Steinbeck writes in the third person to fully demonstrate the idea that this was the life for virtually every ranch worker ✓

He refers to them as "men" as if they are one homogenous group as Steinbeck wrote "those Western magazines ranch men love to read". The reader can understand that they all shared one ambition, as he is presenting the ranch men as aspiring to fulfil the American dream just



b.1  
+ b.4

~~like~~ like the stories of the men read ~~about~~ in the magazines. The inhabitants are therefore not isolated ~~on~~ the bunkhouse, but rather part of the Great Depression and the effects on their lives are shown through those magazines - they treat it as an opportunity to fulfil their Dream despite the fact that is something that every American ~~wants~~ aspired for at the time of Steinbeck. In spite of their bunkhouse, those magazines ~~keep~~ keep the reality alive for them.

George picked up a "small yellow can" that ~~shows~~ the reader can infer from Steinbeck's description that it is a pesticide. Steinbeck does this ~~to show~~ as a symbol that the inhabitants had to cope with the depressing reality of all the effects of the Great Depression as they were living in it. It indicates that they were living with pests such as "lice" ~~and~~ and "roaches" to show that the inhabitants' lives ~~were~~ was full of bad events that they had to face up to. As they were living in the bunkhouse, it shows that they were surrounded by those pests with no hope of escape from it. The little problems of their lives accumulate, and ~~to~~ because it is a shared problem, they had to learn to ~~work~~ work together to face off these problems. Steinbeck conveys to the reader the importance of cooperation despite the lack of individuality in the "white-washed" bunkhouse.

b.1  
in a)

b) In the novel, George is mentioned saying "I'll work my month an' I'll take my fifty bucks". This highlights how the ranch workers are only working ~~for~~ for the sake of earning their keep to survive, so Steinbeck wanted to give a message to the reader that they were working for the sake of staying alive. It implies that they did not enjoy their jobs as the only thing they seem to get out of it was their "fifty bucks". This shows how important money was at the time ~~to~~



6.5  
↓

in *Of Mice and Men*, especially considering the fact that Steinbeck wrote this novel at a time when America was going through hard economic times. The reader can ~~sense~~ sense that the ranch workers only incentive was the American Dream in the pursuit of being happy; but as George ~~is~~ says "months", it signifies how the ranch workers do not look forward to the long-term, preferring to live for the present.

~~The ranch~~ The ranch workers had to accept their cruel reality and the act of Carlson shooting Candy's dog is a reminder to the ranch workers that when they are "a ~~struggle~~" they are not able to work and are not useful in the ranch. Their subsequent fate is an immediate death. Carlson says "I'd put the gun ~~right~~ right here" indicating that the ranch workers ~~are~~ are only valued for being able to do work and therefore Steinbeck presents their lives as being relentless - perhaps as a symbol of the seemingly ~~was~~ ongoing economic depression. ~~St~~ Steinbeck uses the words "right here" to foreshadow the ranch ~~workers~~ workers' future deaths in the ranch and this implies that they would be dying here, failing to achieve the American Dream. The "gun" ~~is~~ also symbolizes that it is inevitable they will never achieve the American ~~Dream~~ Dream, and in this case, it foreshadows Lennie's departure from the world.

6.4

Throughout the novel, Steinbeck repeatedly ~~is~~ refers to the "cat house" that the ranch workers spend their earned money on. The ~~can~~ reader can infer that the ranch workers have ~~accepted~~ accepted their fate and therefore focus on immediate pleasures ~~such as~~ as drinking and ~~spending~~ being with prostitutes. Steinbeck portrays their lives as very lonely ~~as~~ due to the fact that they seek companionship from strangers to fill that void in their lives, and through drinking, they also forget about their problems and ~~of~~ reality.

Write the two digit question number *inside* the boxes next to the first line of your answer

### Answer

Leave blank

This is indicative of the social-historical background of the ranch-workers lives showing that their freedom has been limited as a ~~result~~ result of the Great Depression, and the only things to make them feel good about life would be ~~escape~~ from meaningless sex and continued drinking. Steinbeck portrays their lives as being unhappy ~~and~~ and trying to accept the reality through focusing on the short term.

6.4  
(6.5)

All Band 6.

30

