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

‘I don’t want no fights,’ said Lennie. He got up from his bunk and sat down at the

table, across from George. Almost automatically George shuffled the cards and laid

out his solitaire hand. He used a deliberate, thoughtful, slowness.

Lennie reached for a face card and studied it, then turned it upside down and

studied it. ‘Both ends the same,’ he said, ‘George, why is it both end’s the same?’

‘I don’t know,’ said George. ‘That’s jus’ the way they make ’em. What was Slim

doin’ in the barn when you seen him?’

‘Slim?’

‘Sure. You seen him in the barn, an’ he tol’ you not to pet the pups so much.’

‘Oh yeah. He had a can a’ tar an’ a paint brush. I don’t know what for.’

‘You sure that girl didn’t come in like she come in here today?’

‘No. She never come.’

George sighed. ‘You give me a good whore house every time,’ he said. ‘A guy

can go in an’ get drunk and get ever’thing outta his system all at once, an’ no

messes. And he knows how much it’s gonna set him back. These here jail baits is

just set on the trigger of the hoosegow.’

Lennie followed his words admiringly, and moved his lips a little to keep up. George

continued, ‘You remember Andy Cushman, Lennie? Went to grammar school?’

‘The one that his old lady used to make hot cakes for the kids?’ Lennie asked.

‘Yeah. That’s the one. You can remember anything if there’s anything to eat in it.’

George looked carefully at the solitaire hand. He put an ace up on his scoring rack

and piled a two, three and four of diamonds on it. ‘Andy’s in San Quentin right now

on account of a tart,’ said George.

Lennie drummed on the table with his fi ngers. ‘George?’

‘Huh?’’

‘George, how long’s it gonna be till we get that little place an’ live on the fatta the

lan’ – an’ rabbits?’

**Part (a)**

(a) How do the details in this passage add to your understanding of George and his

relationship with Lennie?

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

(b) How does Steinbeck use their relationship in the novel as a whole to convey ideas

about America in the 1930s? *(30 marks)*

SPaG: *(4 marks)*

**You could include:**

**AO1 – ideas and quotes**

\* details of their conversation in the extract and elsewhere e.g. George‟s impatience and anxiety, Lennie‟s obliviousness

\* details of their dream of a better life in the passage and elsewhere

**AO2 – analysis**

\* in the passage and elsewhere, use of colloquial expressions and dialect in conversation

\* the symbolism of „solitaire‟ in the passage

\* use of humour and pathos in the misunderstandings between George and Lennie in the passage and elsewhere

**AO4 - context**

\* their support for each other in an individualistic world

\* the way Lennie‟s disability is viewed in 1930‟s America

\* attitudes towards women, shown by George in the passage and others elsewhere