



2007 English

Intermediate 1 – Close Reading

Finalised Marking Instructions

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Marking Key

1. “Men are big bairns when it comes to pain” (line 1). Explain what Mrs Harper means by this. **2 U**
- Men behave like children/are dramatic / are scared (1)
when they are unwell/suffering/ill/injured/hurt (1).*
- Condensed answer also acceptable,
eg Men have a low pain threshold/tolerance.
Men can't put up with much pain.*
2. The writer uses humour in the second paragraph (lines 3 – 7). **Quote** an example. **1 A**
- “foul slur”/“how uncomplainingly ...”/“how unfazed ...”/“how reluctant ...”/
“horrendous illness”.*
- Any one.*
3. Explain what the writer means by “lent weight to her theory” (lines 10 – 11). **2 U**
- Backed up/substantiated/endorsed/added to/proved (1) her ideas/her view/what she believed (about men) (1).*
4. What gave Mrs Harper her “chance” (line 16)? **1 U**
- The vet's door being open.*
5. Explain **in your own words** why the vet could treat the dog “at that moment” (line 18). **1 U**
- There was a calm period/he wasn't busy (gloss of “lull”).*
6. Look at the expression “the equivalent of those in a soap shop to a small boy” (line 26).
Explain fully how well this illustrates the “smells in a vet’s surgery” (line 26) from the dog’s point of view. **2 A/E**
- Suggests multiplicity/variety/strength of smells (1) AND
repulsion or antipathy or association with an unpleasant experience (1).*

7. Look at lines 27 – 28.
- In your own words** explain **one** way in which the dog showed unease or restlessness. **1 U**
- (Constant) movement of body OR (wide) movements of head
(gloss of “quivering” or “caring”).*
8. What is surprising about the writer’s choice of the word “squirter” (line 31) to describe the piece of veterinary equipment? **1 A**
- It is slang/colloquial/imprecise.*
9. Explain what “normally placid” (line 33) suggests about the dog’s nature. **2 U**
- He is usually (1)
easy-going/docile/calm/composed/disciplined/well-behaved (1).*
10. “All pretence of canine discipline vanished” (lines 36 – 37).
- Choose **one** expression in the following paragraph (lines 38 – 41), and explain how it continues this idea. **2 A**
- Reference (1) + explanation (1) needed, eg:*
- “confusion” (1) suggests chaos (1);*
- “the dog’s lead twining my legs” (1) suggests lack of control (1);*
- “the lino being gouged (to destruction)” (1) suggests (frantic) uncontrolled behaviour (1);*
- “he tried to head for the door” (1) suggests wilfulness on the dog’s part (1);*
- the vet’s request(s) (to hold/steady/lock the dog) (1) indicate(s) dog is not under control (1).*
11. Explain why the writer chose “another seat” (line 47) to use when holding the dog. **1 U**
- First seat (was on castors and therefore) would move easily.
OR
The second seat was less mobile.*

12. Look at the writer's description of what followed the vet's approach to the dog (lines 53 – 56).

Choose **one** expression in these lines and explain why it is effective in describing the scene which followed.

2 A

Quotation (1) + comment (1) needed, eg:

*“a whirlwind” (1) suggests rapid movement (1);
“dervishes” (1) suggests rapid movement (1);
“banshees” (1) suggests intensity of noise (1);
“gross understatement” (1) suggests great chaos (1);
“spin-driers and pneumatic drills with less vigour” (1) suggests (rapidity of) movement (1);
“bore down” (1) suggests intimidatory nature of action (1).*

13. Look at lines 61 – 62. Explain fully how any **one** example of the writer's **word choice** helps to emphasise that the writer was unconvinced that the vet had done the job properly.

2 A

One example (1) + comment (1) needed from:

*“quick / squirt” (1) suggests perfunctory quality (1);
OR
“half a squirt” (1) suggests lack of thoroughness (1);
OR
“declared(sufficient)” (1) suggests/emphasises the writer's reservation (1).*

14. Explain why “But it didn't end there” (line 63) provides an effective link at this stage in the passage.

3 E

*“But” introduces the contrast (1)
between the preceding apparent success (referred back to by ‘it’) (1)
and the following drawback (suggested by ‘didn't end’) (1).*

15. What is surprising about the expressions “glowered” (line 65) and “exacted his revenge” (lines 66 – 67) as they are used here?

2 A

*They ascribe human powers of emotion (1) to the dog (1).
(Condensed answer of personification = 2).*

16. Look at the writer's description of what happened after the episode at the vet's surgery (lines 69 – 71).

Quote two expressions from these lines which help to point out the **contrast** between the dog and the writer.

2 U/A

Ideas are of happiness and misery.

Contrast any of "leaped"/"bounded"/"gambolled"/"happily"/"having forgotten all about his medical encounter" (1)

with any of

"my mouth had gone dry"/"the sky had gone dark"/"my throat had begun to burn" (1).

17. Explain why the final paragraph (line 84) is an effective conclusion to the passage.

2 E

*Surprise (1) is in keeping with **content/events** of the passage (1).*

OR

*Humour (1) is in keeping with the **tone** of the passage (1).*

Neatness because of brevity = 1 mark.

18. The writer uses some Scots expressions in this piece. Explain how these affected your enjoyment of the passage.

1 E

Either acceptable:

*in favour: (eg) added colour/shades of meaning/couthiness/humour;
against: (eg) incomprehension because of unfamiliarity.*

U = 10; U/A = 2; A = 10; A/E = 2; E = 6.

Total 30 marks

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]