



**2009 English**

**Intermediate 1 – Close Reading**

**Finalised Marking Instructions**

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**English – Intermediate 1**

**Close Reading**

**Marking Key**

1. (a) Explain in **your own words** why “the Velvet Revolution of 1989” (line 3) was unusual. **1 U**
- There was no violence/injury  
(gloss of “without a drop of blood being shed”)(1)*
- (b) Why does the writer include the expression “those people who disagreed openly with the government” in lines 5–6? **2 A**
- It explains/clarifies/tells us (1)  
What “dissidents” means (1)*
2. The writer says he “gambled” (line 8) when he flew into Prague “this time”.  
Explain in **your own words**
- (a) why he thought he might **not** get into the country on this occasion; **1 U**
- He was proscribed/barred/prohibited/excluded (gloss of “banned”)  
[Accept ‘had been thrown out’] (1)  
OR  
Because he did not have the right/correct/required travel document/permission  
(some attempt to gloss “proper visa”) (1)*
- (b) why he thought he might get in. **1 U**
- There was an alteration of/development in the political circumstances/There was an expectation of leniency (gloss of “things were about to change”)*
3. Explain the humour of the sentence “Presumably it told him I was ‘an enemy of the state’” (lines 12–13). **1 A**
- Your answer may focus on **content** or **tone**.
- Content – (obvious) exaggeration/hyperbole/overstatement  
Tone – (idea of being) laconic/self-deprecating/ironic/sardonic  
OR mock-seriousness of “enemy of the state”*
4. Explain what is surprising about the expression “wintry smile” (line 14). **2 A**
- “Wintry” suggests unfriendliness/cold (1)  
whereas “smile” suggests friendliness/warmth (1)*
- Condensed answer of contradiction/paradox/oxymoron = 2;  
Narrative answer, eg “he wasn’t expecting the guard to smile” = 1*

5. Comment on the effectiveness of the **metaphor** or **image** “a ringside seat” (line 15). 2 E

*Derivation/sense of ‘ringside seat’ (1) + relationship/appropriateness to writer’s situation (1)*

*Eg Just as a ringside seat is close to the action/affords a good view (at eg a circus or boxing match) (1)*

*So he was very near to/witnessed clearly the (spectacular) end of Communism/the changes in the country (1).*

*Accept also negative comment that the expression is a cliché or journalese/jargon (2)*

6. The writer knew that changing money unofficially was “illegal” (line 21).

Write down the expression from earlier in the paragraph which introduces the idea of this activity being against the law. 1 U

*‘(a) tout (on the street)’*

*[Accept also ‘(many of) the old laws still applied’]*

7. Look at lines 22–25, and then explain in your own words what problem the writer came up against when he tried to change his money. 1 U

*There were (very) few people around (gloss of “the streets were quiet”).*

8. Explain how one example of the writer’s **word choice** in lines 26–36 shows that the Czech man changing the money wanted to be cautious. 2 A

*Quotation of (1) and comment on (1) any of:*

*walked beside me (eg) suggests concealment of ongoing transaction*

*He spoke quietly (eg) does not wish to draw attention to himself*

*(he) looked straight ahead (eg) does not wish to appear shifty/does not want to be seen talking to Simpson*

*the man whispered (eg) does not wish to draw attention to himself*

*(Come into the hall.) It’s safer. (eg) shows concern about/awareness of danger*

*He looked at them carefully (eg) shows wariness/prudence*

9. Lines 37–41 convey a different mood from the quiet caution shown in lines 26–36.
- (a) Show how an example of the writer’s **word choice** effectively conveys this new mood. **2 E**
- Any one of “explosion”, “rage”, “charging”, “Oh, no!”, “shouted”, “Quick”, “shoved”, “Run for it” or “call the cops” (1)*
- (clearly) suggests (eg) tension/anxiety/urgency OR noise (1)*
- (b) How does the **punctuation** of the words spoken by the Czech man contribute to this mood? **1 A**
- Use of (several) exclamation marks*
- (c) How does any feature of the **sentence structure** of the words spoken by the Czech man match this mood? **1 A**
- Very brief OR (idea of) imperative OR (cumulative effect of) list (of urgent instructions)*
10. The writer tells us “something was working away inside my head” (line 44).  
**Using your own words** as far as possible, explain fully what was worrying him. **3 U**
- Some attempt at glosses of*
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <i>Although it was “dangerous to be doing a deal with a Westerner”</i> | <i>eg it was risky to do business with someone from the west (1)</i>     |
| <i>“the man had shouted out a warning ... in English”</i>              | <i>eg the alarm had been called in English (1)</i>                       |
| <i>Which was certain “proof ... that he was up to no good”</i>         | <i>eg which is confirmation he was doing something wrong/illegal (1)</i> |
11. (a) According to lines 49–55, how had the man swindled the writer? **3 U**
- Underneath the Czech money on top (1)*  
*There was Polish money (1)*  
*Which was worth much less than/worth 2½ % of his money*  
*And/or very hard to change (1)*

- (b) How did the writer feel when he realised he had been swindled, and how does he emphasise this?

**2 A**

*He felt empty/shocked (1);  
He uses “hollow feeling” OR “well and truly”;  
OR  
He describes himself as having been “robbed”;  
OR  
He gives the sentence a paragraph to itself (1).*

*[Accept also a gloss of “angry” (e.g. cross, etc.)(1)  
and reference to/quotation of “At first I was angry”(1)*

*OR  
Foolish/embarrassed (1)  
And quotation of “I felt such an idiot” or comment on the effect of “such” (1)]*

12. The workman asks the writer if he has had something stolen from him (line 61).

What does the workman think of the writer’s answer, and how can we tell?

**2 U/A**

*Incredulity/he does not believe him (1)*

*Shown by any one of  
He grins/he says “I hope he told you”/the repetition of “asking the way”/he asks  
him why he came back/ appropriate comment on the tone he uses (1)*

13. From line 67 to the end of the passage, the writer reflects on this experience with pleasure.

Why is this feeling quite understandable or appropriate?

**2 A**

*He had been swindled by experts (1)  
And he was happy to have paid for the experience/he has learned something (1)  
OR  
The (incipient) freedom of the country (which he loved) (1)  
Was (considerably) more valuable than his money (1)*

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]